



John Harmon

(1617-1661)

&

Elizabeth, his wife

(1609-1699)

&

**Anthony Dorchester, her 2nd husband
of**

Springfield, Massachusetts

and

Springfield Associates

by

Cheryl Harmon Bills

St. Anthony, Idaho

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2010

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Including

Their Springfield Associates

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Preface

In an effort to identify and clear up many misconceptions regarding my ancestors, John and Elizabeth Harmon of Springfield, Massachusetts, I have gone to original records, previous research, and locality histories of the time and places where they lived. It has been such a humbling and exciting journey to walk along the footsteps of history. How dedicated the early residents of Springfield, Massachusetts were in recording the events and challenges of their lives. Some of the records I have found for the 1600s are more detailed than later records I have used.

This book has been promised for many years, but always I hoped to solve the “problems” of who John and Elizabeth really were before publication. I wish I could say I have done that. Even though I still do not know just who they were—I know for certain who they were not! Their lives and spirits have touched mine and led me to records of them and their family. I think I probably know as much about them as anyone living and for that reason, I must publish this still “incomplete” work.

I am in awe of the technology that has come to the aid of the dedicated genealogical researcher! Ancestry.com and familysearch.org along with Usgenconnect, Worldconnect and Rootsweb have been used extensively. I have posted much of my research on message boards and so many have contacted me with bits and pieces. I wish I could give each of you due credit. I do thank you and appreciate your willingness to share with me and with our other cousins scattered throughout the world. More and more records from England are becoming available online and it is my hope and dream that as they do and as WE continue this search, we will be led to our true origins!

John and Elizabeth lived in a day without the benefit of central heat, electricity, automobiles, internet, and the comforts and ease we enjoy today. They would probably think this author quite lazy as she spends hours and hours searching out old records – stopping occasionally to go to the refrigerator for a snack! They worked so hard and so long—and helped make it possible for us to have this life style we so enjoy today.

The surname “Harmon” (Harman, Harmen, Herman) is of English derivative meaning “Army Man.” It was originally Heartman—a man of heart and courage—or from the name Herman—meaning “here is an army”— “here is a man”— or “soldier.” Truly our Harmon ancestors were “Army Men” They are men and women of “Heart” and “Courage!”

Mount Hermon is 9,400 feet high and in the extreme northeast of the Holy Land. It is visible from a great part of Galilee and as far south as Jericho. The Hermonites (Psalms 42:6) are the three peaks of Mount Hermon. It is probable that our Lord’s transfiguration took place either on Hermon or one of the adjacent heights.

(Bible Dictionary)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard...As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

—Psalms 133:1-3

This book is dedicated to John and Elizabeth Harmon and all their ancestors and descendants—with love and gratitude—admiration and appreciation. It is time that your story be told!

Cheryl Harmon Bills




Harmon

— our Name

*You got it from your father
It was all he had to give,
So its yours to use and cherish
For as long as you may live.
If you lose the watch he gave you,
It can always be replaced,
But a black mark on your name, son,
Can never be erased!*

*It was clean the day you took it
And a worthy name to bear,
When he got it from his father
There was no dishonor there.
So make sure you guard it wisely
After all is said and done...
You'll be glad your name is spotless
When you give it to your son.*

Anonymous



John Warman 1st Born in England 1617

marry Elizabeth 1640

b. in England 1617

Had 8 children

John Warman died Springfield 1660-61

She marry ² Anthony Dorchester

He died Springfield Aug 28. 1683

She died do May 16. 1699 age 91

Children of John 1st & Elizabeth

1 John b. 1641- m^{ry} Mary Dorchester Jan 9. 1668-9

Had 5 child.

She d. Springf^d Feb. 7. 1711-12

He d. do Feb 13. 1711-12

2 Samuel

He d Springf^d Sept 7. 1677

3 Sarah b. Springf^d Jan 24. 1644. 5

m^{ry} Charles Ferry Mch 29. 1661

had 10 child

She d. Springf^d July 3. 1699

✓ 4 Joseph b. Springf^d Jan 4. 1646-7

m. Hannah Phibbs or Fells (b. Windsor 1653)

He was a Farmer - had 10 child.

She d. Suffield Aug 28. 1729 age 76.

He d Suffield Oct 28. 1729 age 82

5 Elizabeth b. Sprungb 1649

6 Mary b. Sprungb Nov. 12. 1651

m^o John Dorchester (b. Windsor 1644)

April 20. 1671

He d. Sprungb Oct 5. 1705 age 60

✓ 7 Nathaniel b. Sprungb March 13. 1653-4

m. Mary Skinner (b. Windsor Sept 22 1667)

in Suffield Nov. 19. 1685

had 10 child

He d. Suffield May 2. 1712 age 58

she m. John Hancock in 1713

She d. Suffield Sept 17. 1780 age 62

He m. Sarah Taylor - then Sarah Southwell

She died Oct 23. 1744

8 Ebenezer b. Sprungb Aug 12. 1657

Drowned in the mill brook April 7. 1660

Known Land Grants to John Harmon:

- 1643: Springfield made general land grants at this time. Since John was taxed for his land in 1644, he must have been granted land either in 1641 or 1643 with the latter date being more logical because of the assessment date.
[Springfield Town into City]

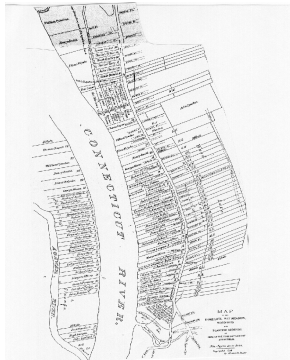
The land first allotted to **John Harmon** is described as:

A house lot by Grant of ye Plantation with the addition vist. Four acres more or less breadth 8rod length from the street fence to the Great River 80 rod bounded north by Henry Burt; South by Nathaniel Prichard. [Town Records V. 3 pg. 158/199]

- 1644: *It is ordered that house lotts from Roger Prichards downward shall have their 2nd allotments below Agawam River mouth—every man to have 5 acres apiece to run in length 80 rods. Their lots abutt against ye great river.*
[Springfield–Town into City]
- 1645: 15 Acres of Meadow Land on Connecticut River, 3rd property south of Wheel Meadow Brook. Later sold to John Stebbins. [Olde Long Meadow; see map]
- 1647: By this time, **John Harmon** had 33 acres of land. See 1647 Lot Owners of Springfield.
- 1649: 4 acres in Longmeadow “over ye Brooke” [First Century of Springfield]
(21 Feb 1649) *It is ordered...lay out the severall parcells of meddow granted ye last yeare, to Henry Burt 4 acres, Tho. Mirack 4 acres, Alex Edwards, 4 acres, Jno Harman 4 acres, in ye Longe meddow over ye Brooke.*
- 1651: 2 ½ acres on “Pacowsick beginning at ye lower end. [First Century of Springfield]
The request was granted in 1648. Three years after (on 22 Jan 1651), lands were apportioned at Pecowsic ... as follows:
The names of such as have meddow granted ym, & how they are to ly, by lot on Pacowsick beginning at ye lower end;
- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Benj Cooly</i> | <i>1st</i> | <i>who hath 3 acres</i> |
| Anthony Dorchester | <i>2nd</i> | <i>4 acres</i> |
| <i>Widdow Bliss</i> | <i>3rd</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>Roger Prichard &</i> | | |
| <i>John Lumbard</i> | <i>4th</i> | <i>1 & ½</i> |
| <i>Nath Prichard</i> | <i>5th</i> | <i>4</i> |
| John Harmon | <i>6th</i> | <i>2 ½</i> |
- 1654: 3 acres part of “meddow” called Wattchuett.
Feb 8 (1654), thease parsells of meddow commonly called by the name of Wattchuett was granted these inhabitants as followeth:
John Harman 3 acres
- 1655: 3 acres over “Ye Mill River” [First Century of Springfield]
A grant of land over ye mill river, ye first lot being to ly next ye mill river, & fro; thence goes downward, ye lots are to run fro: ye brow of ye hill (viz) from the top of ye hill w[hich] the cart way goes up, back to ye grt. River. It was concluded before these grants were made, that ye Common way shall not be barred out, but it shall still goe all along through these lots and severall mens lands. It is also given them on condition they continue 5 yeares in towne or else to forfeit it.
John Harmon received the 17th lot 3 acres with **Anthony Dorchester** on the 16th lot with 3 acres and John Matthews on the 18th lot with 1 acre.
- 1660: At the time of his death, **John Harmon**’s housing and lott was valued at 25 pounds; his other lands at 21 pounds; and his cattle at 33 pounds.

Maps

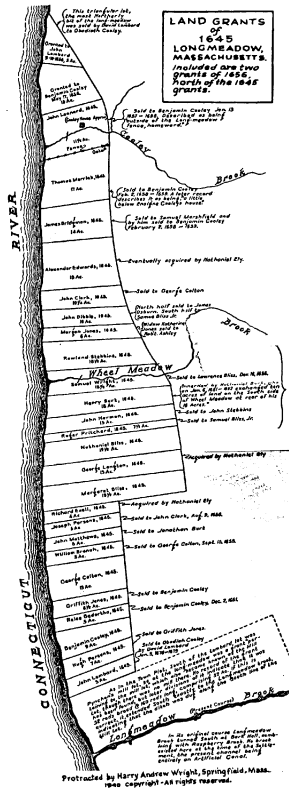
As this book unfolds, you will want to refer to these maps again and again. I am so very appreciative of the men who so painstakingly put them together for posterity.



Map #1 (page 5 for larger version)

Shows Springfield homelots, wood lots and meadow lots of the first settlers. Look left of the blank space between Connecticut and River. You will see **John Harmon** on the left with 8 acres of meadow land, on the right with 8 acres of his home lot, and in the wood lots, you will see his initials, JH.

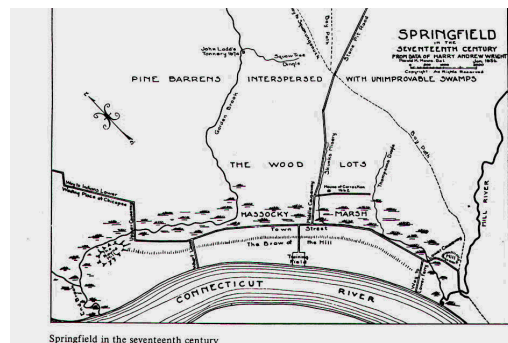
This map was created by Henry M. Burt for inclusion in his book, The First Century of Springfield 1636-1736, which was printed in 1898. We are very indebted to Mr. Burt for his preservation of the early history of Springfield and his book is quoted extensively in this work.

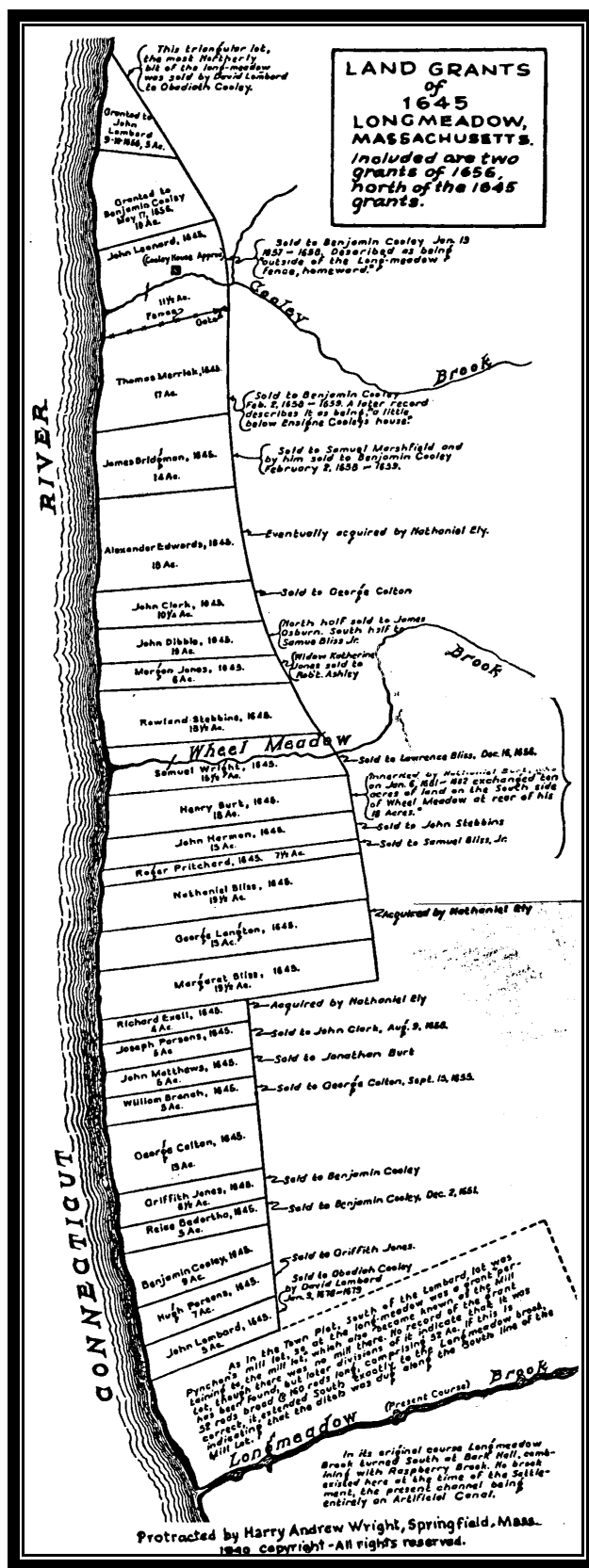


Map #2 (See page 6 for larger version)

This map shows the land grants in Longmeadow of 1645 and two grants of 1656. This map was protracted by Harry Andrew Wright of Springfield in 1940. This map appears in "The Long Meddowe 1636-1716" by Michael F. Gelinas. (Olde Long Meddowe (Massachusetts, Longmeadow Historical Society, 1981). Look two plats below Wheel Meadow Brook to find **John Harmon**'s grant of 15 acres. This land was later sold to John Stebbins. Again, I wish to express gratitude to Mr. Wright for this map which helps us see at a glance the grants mentioned in this book.

An Overview





JOHN HARMON

of

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Time line

1609-1617 Sometime between these years, both John and Elizabeth were born--probably in England. King James I was the Monarch in power. During his reign he authorized the translation of the Bible into the English language. This was completed in 1611. The preface to the King James Bible says:

"Among all our joys there is no one that more filled our hearts, than the blessed continuance of the preaching of God's sacred Word among us; which is that inestimable treasure, which excelleth all the riches of the earth; because the fruit thereof extendeth itself, not only to the time spent in this transitory world, but directeth and disposeth men unto that eternal happiness which is above in heaven."

Probably this one thing---having the Bible in a language that the common people could understand---had as much or more impact on our ancestors than anything else. It was in 1618 that the European Thirty Year War began. In England there was the constant clashing between the King and Parliament and between the Catholics and the Puritans. It is as if the Devil has to get his licks in whenever a great thing is taking place and he certainly did that as there was a great deal of religious persecution and deprivation going on during the time that our **John Harmon** and Elizabeth grew to adulthood.

James was not a popular king--he was a foreigner, a Scotchman, and was often referred to as the "*wisest fool in Christendom*." He detested working with Parliament and tried to do away with it--wanting all power to be vested in himself as King. He was spendy and arrogant. Between the years of 1630 and 1640, twenty thousand Puritans from England settled in new England and the same number went to Barbados and other West Indies islands during the same years. A third group of roughly the same size--but made up mostly of Scotch Presbyterians settled in northern Ireland. English Catholics settled in Maryland and a great many of the Church of England went to Virginia in the mid century.

About 1635: It is not known for sure when **John Harmon** arrived in New England. As seen in later chapters there is much speculation. If he did not come with Pynchon on the Winthrop fleet as one of his servants, then it is very likely that he came about 1635.

The vessels and passengers of 1635 from England to America were very numerous. Shipwrights, Fishermen, Passengers from England states: "*The arrivals exceeded the expectations of the previous settlers and exceeded all preparations made for them or by them, either for food or house-room. Many circumstances combined to occasion for this crowd, and, as a result, much suffering. There was not only no glass for windows, but no houses at all of any kind for the strangers, nor food for their hungry stomachs. The cold, much greater than in England farther north, was not anticipated, not the hunger sufficiently estimated to be provided for or guarded against. Some of the vessels which brought passengers had not supplies sufficient to last their crews for the voyage back, and had the greatest difficulty to obtain them. The lives of many depended upon fish and fishermen. The grand difficulty was the want of sufficient food and covering to sustain life until other things could be secured*"

John settled first--probably at Boston; then later at Roxbury, Massachusetts. Roxbury was an adjoining settlement near Boston. The principal founder of Roxbury was William Pynchon. It was a religious community. Pynchon was the first signer of the church covenant.

About 1636: Pynchon left Roxbury and with a company led by Rev. Thomas Hooker and Rev. Samuel Stone. Thomas Hooker was from the community of New Towne (now Cambridge), Massachusetts to Hartford, Connecticut where he, along with Stone, would become the leader of the settlement there. They went

southward. Pynchon's group settled at the junction of the Agawam and Connecticut rivers at what is now the city of Springfield. William Pynchon's history which states that George Maxon was the minister procured for the new settlement at Agawam.

By

1640: It is unknown just when or where **John Harmon** and Elizabeth were married. The marriage possibly took place at Roxbury, but I have found no record. It is known that they were married and had two children before they arrived in Springfield.

1640: *"About the year 1640 **John Harmon**, i.e. John the first, born in England, 1617, landed in Boston, America, and after a year or two in Roxbury, joined the few under their leader, Pynchon, on the fertile banks of the Connecticut River and was one of the first settlers of Springfield, MA."*

1641: The first child, a son whom they named John, was born.

1643: The second child, a son whom they named Samuel, was born. Genealogical and Family History of New York states: *"**John Harmon** settled in Springfield in 1643."*

The land first allotted to **John Harmon** in Springfield is described in the town records to have been:..."*a house lot by Grant of ye Plantation with the addition viz. four acres more or less Breadth 8 rod Length from the Street Fence to the Great River 80 rod bounded North by Henry Burt South by Nathaniel Pritchard."* His home lot was located on the west side of the street between the present State and Mill Streets.

1644: 16 May *"for raysings of 20 pounds in part payment for ye Indian Purchase of ye Plantation"* **John Harmon** was assessed 8 shillings 10 pence. This is the first mention of **John Harmon** in the records; so he must have been granted land either in 1641 or 1643 with the latter date seeming more logical because of the assessment date. Spring 1644 *"It is ordered that those lotts from Roger Prichards downward shall have their 2nd allotments below Agawam River mouth—every man to have 5 acres apiece to run in length 80 rods their lotts to abutt against ye greate river."*

1644: *"Sarah Harman, daughter of John Harman, borne 7 mon. 24 day 1644."* at Springfield.

1646: In 'a rate for ye raysinge of 30 pounds for the purchase of the lands of the Plantation 1646.' **John Harmon** is assessed 9s, 2d on the 33 acres of land.

1645: After ten years or so of communal living, the residents of Springfield voted in 1645 to distribute the land to individual people as farm lots. The ability of the original planting grounds to support an increased population had reached its limit, and the sons of many of the original settlers were reaching maturity and required their own farms. Thus the meadow lands were given to the residents of the southern end of the original downtown Springfield settlement.

1646: *"Joseph Harman ye sone of John Harman borne 7 mon. 4 day 1646."* at Springfield. At this time, the four Harmon children ranged in age from 5 or 6 years old to newborn.

1645-7: 1645-7 For two years after these grants in the "long meadow", the new owners prepared the area for agriculture. Lots were laid out and fences were begun. Despite the ideals of being a close-knit and religious-minded community, fences soon proved necessary to keep peace, as wandering swine and cattle damaged neighbor's crops. The meadows were dotted with wild cranberry bogs, ponds, and swamps and because of the low-lying nature of the land it was subject to flooding.

1647: 2 Nov. John was made surveyor of highways of the lower part of the town. A road from Springfield into the meadows was completed, including a small bridge over the Pecousic River. This road was extended to Warehouse Point to facilitate the movement of supplies and beaver pelts between Springfield and Pynchon's warehouse.

1648: 6 Feb. At Court, John signed the Oath of Fidelity promising to be true to God; to submit to the law and to endeavor to maintain and preserve all the liberties and privileges of the law. The list of signers of this oath is the nearest thing to a census record that I have been able to locate for this time period. I here quote the oath and in a later chapter have attempted to identify those persons whom John and Elizabeth associated with. It is possible that we will eventually find relationships among their associates.

At a Court this 6 Feb 1648--The underwritten tooke the Oath of Fidelity:

The Oath of Fidelity

I, _____, being by Gods providence an Inhabitant within the Jurisdiction of this Common-wealth, doe freely and sincerely acknowledge myselfe to be subject to the Government thereof. And doe heer swear by the great and dreadfull Name of the Ever-living God, that I will be true and faithful to the same, and will accordingly yield assistance thereunto, with my person and estate, as in equitie I am bound: and will also truly endeavor to maintain and preserve all the Liberties and Privileges thereof, submitting myself unto the wholesome Laws made, and established by the same. And further, that I will not plot or practice any evil against it, or consent to any that shall so doe; but will timely discover and reveal the same to lawful Authoritie now here established, for the speedy preventing thereof. So help me God in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Signed:

Thomas Merick	John Leonard	George Langhton	Benjamin Cooly
Rowland Thomas	James Bridgeman	John Matthews	Hugh Parsons
John Stebbing	John Clark	Thomas Sewell	John Lumbard
William Brookes	Samuell Marshfield	Richard Exile	Miles Morgan
Nathaniel Browne	Rowland Stegging	Jonathan Taylor	Alesander Edwards
Thomas Cooper	Jonathan Burt	Georg Coulten	
William Warrener	John Herman	Griffith Jones	
Robert Ashley	Nathaniell Blisse	Rice Bedorth	

1648: The Indian threat was real, but William Pynchon was known as a champion of Indian rights. The roaming Indians often presented a menace to the developments of any outlying settlements. In July 1648, Pynchon may have averted a dangerous Indian war by refusing a request of several of the magistrates to assist some Indians of Quabaug in apprehending some murders at Naucotok (Northampton) on the basis that the murdered Indians were subjects and the offenders within the colony jurisdiction. Pynchon refused the request, stressed the danger of war and resorted to legal principles in stating the culprits were not subjects within the Bay jurisdiction. This stand caused Pynchon to be hailed as a champion of Indian rights.

1648: Many of the Springfield inhabitants had shown a strong preference for the long meadow and requested permits to surrender the planting ground upon the river-bank and to take lands back upon the next plantation. This request was granted in 1648. Three years after, the lands were apportioned at Pecowsic and Mill River as follows:

Benj. Cooley	1 st	who hath 3 acres
Anthony Dorchester	2 nd	4 acres
Widow Bliss	3 rd	3 acres
Roger Prichard & John Lumbard	4 th	1 ½ acres
Nath Prichard	5 th	4 acres
John Harmon	6 th	2 ½ acres

1649: 12 Feb. John Harman was granted land; the record stating: 'It is ordered ye Geo. Colton and Thomas Cooper who is ye Towne treasures should with yr best discretion lay out the severall parcells of Meadow granted ye last yeare to Henry Burt 4 acres; Tho. Mirick 4 acres, Alex. Edwards 4 acres, **John Harmon** 4 acres, In ye Longe meadow over ye Brooke.' Lots were laid out and fences begun to keep wandering swine and cattle from damaging neighbors crops. The first house was built in the meadows in 1649. Most lot owners already had homes in Springfield and the meadows were subject to flooding.

1649: 29/30 May. **John Harmon** and several other settlers were fined in court for leaving their oxen over the Great River since the first of May without a keeper. The oxen damaged Henry Burt's wheat crop and each owner of oxen left there was fined:

The sworn presenter of the breach of order did this 30 May present:

Mr. Smith	Tho. Cooper	Robert Ashly	Samuell Wright
Mr. Holioak	Sam. Chapen	Serjant Merik	John Herman
Mr. Moxon	William Warrener	James Bridgeman	Benjamin Cooly
			George Coulton

for the breach of a Towne order in leaving their oxen over the Great River since the first of May last without a keeper. The Towne order makes each Teame liable to a fine of 5 shillings per teame if Any do keepe oxen over the River without a constant keeper after the first day of May.

Mr. Smith, Mr. Holioak and Serjant Merik had teames there of 4 oxen a peace. Mr. Moxon and Thomas Cooper one; Samuell Chappen and William Warrener one, Robert Ashly and James Bridgeman one. Samuell Wright and John Herman one, Benjamin Cooly and George Coulton one; in all eight teams.

A warrant to the Constable for the taking up these forfeits and to pay them presently to the Towne Treasurer, Mr. John Pynchon. These dues belonging to the Towne were all released by the town. [Marginal note]

These said Teames did also trespass Henry Burt in his marsh wheat which was valued by Richard Sykes and George Lanckton to be to the value of 12 bushels in their best apprehensions; and they were all Content to refer themselves to my order for the several proportions what every one is to pay.

I have considered of it and for want of proof whose oxen did the damage in particular I have judged it most equal that all of said 8 teams doe pay 1 "bushell and a halfe" a peace the next winter by the first of December next, viz:

Henry Smith	1 bushell and a half
Elitzur Holioak	1 bushell and a half
Serjant Merik	1 bushell and a half
Mr. Moxon and Thomas Cooper	1 bushell and a half
Samuell Chappen and William Warrener	1 bushell and a half
Robert Ashly and James Bridgeman	1 bushell and a half
Samuell Wright and John Herman	1 bushell and a half
Benjamin Cooly and George Coulton	1 bushell and a half

1649: 2 mon. 15 day. *"Elizabeth Harman ye daughter of John Harman borne."*

1649: From Pynchon Court Records on 29th day of 3rd month 1649, we read: Henry Burt was chosen clerk of the writts for this towne. This day all the printed laws were read; the whole town being present: the perfectinge of the order about hogges and pigges is referred to the select Townsmen and to set down the tyme when they shall be yoaked and when they may go at liberty.

1650: June. William Pynchon, a close associate of **John Harmon** and founder of the plantation at Springfield,, authored a book called *The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption, Justification, etc.* He attempted to prove that since sin came into the world through Adam's disobedience; so Christ, by his perfect obedience, paid the full price of our redemption. He claimed that if Christ had died unwillingly, the sacrifice would not have been sufficient. His divine nature was the altar upon which he sacrificed his human nature. Yet his mediatorial death was a miraculous death. The devil and his agents had power to bruise Him and to nail Him to a cross; but they had no power to separate his Soul from his body. So his death was not passive but active; and therefore a part of his mediatorial obedience.

1650: Oct. There was so much uproar caused by Pynchon's book that it was condemned by its title-page alone.

Winthrop, the governor of the Massachusetts colony and a close personal friend of Pynchon, was now dead and the more orthodox religious leaders took charge. Pynchon's book was ordered to be burnt on the Boston commons by the General Court. This controversy had so much effect on him that William Pynchon and his wife returned to England. But he continued to write religious pamphlets which were controversial with the established religions of the day. We do not have any record of what John and Elizabeth thought of Pynchon's teachings, but we do know they were close associates and business partners of William and also his son, John as well as sons-in-law; Henry Smith and Elizur Holyoke. When Pynchon returned to England, his son-in-law, Henry Smith, went also, as did George Maxon, the Springfield minister.

1651: 22 Jan John Harman was grantee of lot 6, two and one-half acres 'on Pacowick.' (See 1648).

1651: *"Mary Hermon d. of John Hermon borne ye 12 day of ye 9 mon. 1651."*

1652: 31 Jul. Child number five, Elizabeth, died on *"ye 7th of ye 4th month"*
She was three years old.

1652-57: During this time John Pynchon, son of William, shipped to England almost 9,000 beaver skins weighing 13,139 pounds. The beaver were more valuable than all other skins. They were obtained mostly by trading with the Indians. The principal Indian traders under Pynchon were Thomas Cooper of Springfield, Joseph Parsons and David Wilton of Northampton and Doct. John Westcarr of Hadley. There were others and they carried on a trade with the whites as well as the Indians. In England, these furs may have brought eight shillings sterling per pound which would equal out to about \$24,537. Other skins sent to England at this time included moose skins, otter, minks, musquash, Canada sables, foxes, wolves, raccoons, wildcats, bear, etc. The traders in Springfield who brought furs to Pynchon received pay in the form of wheat.

1654: **John Harmon** was made a fence viewer of fences from the meetinghouse downwards to serve with Sam Marshfield..

1653/54: 13 Mar. Nathaniel Herman, son of John Herman borne the 13 of ye 1 mon. 1654.

1654: 8 Feb. These parsells of meadow commonly called by the name of Wattochnett was granted these inhabitants as followeth, vis. John Harman 3 acres,' etc. He also received a grant of land "over ye mill river" containing 3 acres. He also received other grants of land.

1656: 4 Nov John was chosen to the office of 'presenter to present breaches of the laws of the county or of town orders and to which service he took his oath.'

1657: *"Ebenezer Hermon s. of John Hermon borne the 12 of the 6 mon. 1657."* At this time, John and Elizabeth's oldest child was about sixteen years old. Ebenezer was the 8th child, seven of whom were living--he was about four years younger than Nathaniel, his next older sibling.

1558-1674: John Pynchon shipped over 6,000 beaver skins and a substantial number of muskrat, moose, otter, fox, raccoon, fisher, and other miscellaneous skins.

1658: 2 Nov. **John Harmon** was selected as Surveyor of Highways

1659: 23 December: **John Harmon** was one of six persons seated by the selectmen in the third seat of the church.

1660: 7 Apr. Little Ebenezer, age three, drowned in *"ye brook by ye mill stream ye 7th of ye 2 mon, 1660."* (See end-note regarding double-dating at death of **John Harmon**.)

"This day the youngest child of John Herman, called Ebenezer, was found dead in the brook in Nathaniel Prichard's yard; concerning whose death there was a search and inquiry made by a jury of 12 men of this town of Springfield how the said child came to its end. The jurors were: Thomas Cooper, William Branch, William warrener, Thomas Stebbin, Thomas Noble, John Stewart, Samuel Marshfield, Henry Burt,

Benjamin Parsons, Abell Wright, Richard Sikes, John Clarke---whose return upon oath before the Commissioners Elizur Holyoke and Mr. Samuel Chapin, was that according to the best light they could have in the case they judge the child to be drowned in the brooke through its own weakness without the hand of any other person being any occasion or cause thereof.

1661: 4 March. **John Harmon** prepared his will in the presence of Elizur Holyoke and John Lumbard. See 13 May 1661 on this list for a copy of the will and inventory.

1661: 7 Mar: **John Harmon** died at Springfield; age 43. "*John Harmon of Springfield, deceased, who died the 7th day of March 1660/61.*" John was probably originally buried in the Colonial burying ground which was the "Burying Ground on the Banks of the Greate River." In 1848, all remains of the old burying grounds in downtown Springfield were removed to the present Springfield Cemetery which is known as the "Peabody Cemetery." There is a plot in the Springfield (Peabody) cemetery in the last plot in Row 1, identified in Cemetery Records as #1-111. To the right of #1-111 is a plot approximately 20' x 20' containing the following marker: "*Withing these four monuments are the remains of Unknown Dead removed from the Old Burial Places in 1848.*" This plot is adjacent to the only Harmon stone remaining---that of John 3rd (1678-1742) and his family.

1661: 13 May Will of **John Harmon** recorded in Probate Court records. An inventory of his estate was later taken by Henry Burt and Nathaniel Ely. Copies of both are included at this time.

1661: **WILL OF JOHN HARMAN:**

"The will & Testament of John Harman of Springfield deceased who died the 7th Day of March 1660/1661: Know all whom this may concern that John Harman of Springfield being sick and weak in body, but of ready memory and understanding, being requested on the 4th day of March 1660/1661 to settle his worldly affairs, did refuse to dispose of any thing particularly, but said he would leave all that he had into his wive's hand for he said she is a tender mother, therefore she should have the disposal of all. This was spoke by the said John Harman the day above mentioned being two days before his death"

Witnesses whereunto were:

Elizur Holyoke and John X Lumbard
(His mark)

Recorded May 13th 1661.

1661: An inventory of the estate of John Harman, deceased, taken by Henry Burt and Nathaniell Ely: The 3rd of the said mon. 1661:

ITEM	L S D
Housing & Lott	25...00...00
Other Lands	21...00...00
In Cattle	33...00...00
Ammunition	2...10...00
Tymber and household stuff	1...00...00
Brass & iron ...	1...04...00
TOTAL	83...14
Tooles	3...12...00
Bedding	6...00...00
Lymon	6...00...00
Corn	3...05...00
Due in debts	1...10...00
TOTAL	20...07...00
TOTAL	104...01...
Debts owing from ... of labor	15...00...00

When **John Harmon** died, he was survived by his wife, Elizabeth and the following children--all unmarried.

John Harmon age abt. 20
 Samuel Harmon age abt 18
 Sarah Harmon age 17
 Joseph Harmon age 15
 Mary Harmon age 10
 Nathaniel Harmon age 8

Two children preceded him in death: Elizabeth died in 1652, age 3; and Ebenezer drowned in 1660--just a year before John's death. Ebenezer was also three years of age when he drowned. It is significant to me that John referred to his wife as a "*tender mother*" and therefore she should have his entire estate with no mention of losing it should she remarry.

What was John's estate worth? L = pounds in English currency. The valuation chart I have is for 1996. In 1660, one pound would have the buying power of 64.82 pounds in 1996. {1.00 x 64.82} John's estate was valued at 104 pounds in 1661. In 1996 terms it would be worth 6,741.28 pounds. The value of a pound is approximately six to eight American dollars--so for the sake of fairness, let's multiply by 7 and we have \$47,187.96 in 1996---or about \$728 in 1661.

In comparison, a few other Springfield estate inventories reveal: The valuation of John Searle's estate was 101 pounds; Nathaniel Bliss' was 54 pounds; Symon Sackett's was 39 pounds; Widow Horton's was 37 pounds. Final settlement on John Pynchon's estate was not made until 1737 when it was valued at 8,446 pounds---of which only 165 pounds consisted of personal property. (One pound in 1730 would have the buying power of 74.08 pounds

in 1996.) So, **John Harmon** was not a poor man at his death. His greatest assets were his cattle, his lands, and his housing and lots.

Regarding the date of John's death: According to the calendar in use at that time, March was the first month with March 25 being the first day of the new year. March 24th would be in 1660; March 25th would be in 1661. The dates for Jan, Feb, and Mar were often written 1660/61. The second month in 1661 could either be February or April. In Springfield records it was April. John requested his will be made on the 4th day of March 1660/61. Then it says he died two days later--but the death date is clearly given as 7th day of March 1660/61. So, perhaps his will was requested one day; the witnesses called; the will was "spoken" and then John died two days later.

The Will & Testament of John Harman of Springfield deceased who died the 7th day of March 1660/1661.

I know all whom this may concerns that John Harman of Springfield being sick & weak in body, but of ready memory & understanding being requested on the 4th day of March 1660. 1661 to settle his worldly estate, did refuse to dispose of any thing particularly, but said he would leave all that he had into his wives ^{hand} for he said shee is a tender Mother, & therefore shee should have the dispose of all: This was spoke by the said John Harman the day above mentioned beinge two dayes before his death: witnesses whereunto were

Elizur Holyoke & John ^{the mark of} Cumbard

Witnessed May 13th 1661

An Inventory of the estate of John Harman deceased taken by Henry Hunt & Nathaniel Ely the 3rd of the 2nd mon. 1661.

Housing & lot	25. 00. 00.	Tools	3. 12. 00.
Woodslands	4. 00. 00.	Bedding	6. 00. 00.
In Cattle	33. 00. 00.	Lynen	6. 00. 00.
Ammunition	2. 10. 00.	Corn	3. 05. 00.
Synners Household stuff	1. 00. 00.	Due in debt	1. 10. 00.
Wages & other expenses	1. 00. 00.		20. 07. 00.
	25. 00. 00.	Totally say	01. 00. 00.
			15. 00. 00.

May 13. 1661.

Film O. 879. 1841 - John Harmon



This Monument is in the West Suffield, Connecticut Cemetery in honor of the descendants of **John Harmon** who were the first settlers of Suffield. Its backside (shown above) reads:

John Harmon-England-1617; Springfield, Mass.- 1661
 Joseph 1st Springfield-Mass-1646-Suffield, Conn-1729
 Nathaniel-Springfield-Mass-1653-Suffield-Conn-1685
 Brothers-First Settlers of Suffield, Connecticut
 Israel 1st -1753-1831-Soldier Am. Rev. War
 Israel 2nd-1784-1844
 Israel 3rd -Suffield-Conn-1834-Springfield-Mass 1913

This stone is erected by Israel Harmon 3rd

The front side reads:

In Memoriam
 Israel Harmon 1784-1844
 Paulina Harmon His Wife 1801-1868
 Her children rise up and call her blessed
 George W. 1821-1888 Eliza 1822-1870 Oliver 1824-1856 Martha 1829-1857
 Israel 1834-1913 Julius Alonzo 1837-1895 Julia Annette 1837-1867

**This stone is at the south-east corner of Court Square in
Springfield, Massachusetts.
It is about 1/4 mile west of the Connecticut
River, behind the church.**



It reads:
Just east of here stood
The First Meeting House
built in 1645

Past this point ran Meeting House Lane
Which led to
The First Training Field
and
Burying Ground on the
Bank of the Greate River.

This tablet placed by
Mercy Warren Chapter, D.A.R.

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EXPLORING THEORIES: WHO IS JOHN HARMON OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS?

There is much debate and some controversy about which New England **John Harmon** is indeed the **John Harmon** of Springfield, Massachusetts. In this chapter, I will explore the three most common claims of who the Springfield **John Harmon** is and where he came from:

THEORY #1

In 1620, a **John Harmon**, aged 19, supposedly came on the MAYFLOWER with Stephen Hopkins. John was a son of Edmund Harmon, a cloth dealer of London, England, and came as a lad servant of Hopkins. It is claimed that he was later apprenticed to Francis Cooke of Plymouth, Massachusetts for seven years. However, he is not listed among the passengers of the Mayflower.

There are differing opinions as to the fate of this supposed man who “came” on the Mayflower. It appears from the following that perhaps he “came” later and was “apprenticed” to Mr. Cook. The book, The Harmon Family in the Revolution states: “**John Harmon**, Plymouth, Mass., who was the son of Edmund Harmon, of London, England, “was apprenticed to Mr. Cook of Plymouth in 1635,” and as no descendants seem to be known of him he may have returned to England. The date of his death is not known.”

According to the Ancestry of Lydia Harmon, the **John Harmon** who was apprenticed to Francis Cooke, whether or not he came on the Mayflower, appears on the records of Plymouth in 1643 and 1645. (This would be after his apprenticeship was fulfilled. In 1657 he was at Duxbury, MA. This book claims that he received grants of land from Plymouth in 1662 and 1665 which he sold in 1669. The book also says that there is no evidence that this John had a wife or family. In later years this **John Harmon** became decrepit and in 1680 there was a debate before the court whether the town of Taunton or Plymouth should care for him. In 1683 it was ordered that each town should care for John in alternating years. (See later writeup in this chapter on William Browne and **John Harmon** of Plymouth.)

⌘We can definitely eliminate this John of Plymouth as the John of Springfield.⌘

It is possible, however, that we Harmons did have relatives among the Mayflower passengers: Priscilla Mullens came with her parents, William and Alice Mullens in 1620. Many claim that Alice Mullens maiden name is Atwood. If so, her mother was Olive Harman (see IGI) born about 1548 of Sanderstead, Surrey, England. Olive’s father was James Harman. Olive Harman married Nicholas Atwood at St. Martin-in-the-field, Westminster, Middlesex, England. Priscilla Mullens married John Alden in Plymouth.



THEORY #2

In July 1635, **Francis Harmon**, aged 43, **Jo Harmon**, aged 12, and **Sara Harmon**, aged 10 sailed in the ship, LOVE; Joseph Young, master, from London for New England. This is by far the most common claim for the ancestry of our John.

Hereafter, I will examine the passengers of the Ship, "Love." For several years I have carefully studied many records attempting to locate the earliest possible claim that Francis is John of Springfield's father. It appears to me that all roads lead to much questionable information. As you read this section, I urge you to keep an open mind. It would be easier to say, "Yes, Francis is our ancestor" than to face the fact that in all likelihood he is not and the search needs to continue. But I am not doing this for the easy way out! Let's take a look now at the passengers of this ship:

LOVE PASSENGERS :

In Shipwright's Fishermen & Passengers from England, pg. 26, we read: (The following is a direct quote; the bold and quotation marked comments are mine.)

*"The next vessel which received passengers at London, between 13th and 23rd July 1635, to be transported to New England, was "The Love," Joseph Young, Master. Only eight passengers besides the master are named on the book: "Two passenger names, **Willm. Cherrall**, baker, aet. (age estimated at) 26 and **Ursula Cherrall**, aet. 40, were probably copied erroneously for **William Charles** and his wife, mother, or sister, who arrived at Salem and were at Marblehead in 1648. Four others, **Francis Harman**, aet. 43; **Jo. Harman**, aet. 12, and **Sara**, aet. 10, and **Walter Parker** aet. 18, are **NOT TRACED!***

"The remaining two passengers named were **Willm. Browne**, called fisherman, aet. 26, and **Mary Browne**, aet. 26, doubtless his wife. William Browne was a son of **Francis Browne**, of Weybrid Hall, Suffolk Co., England. His occupation was not a fisherman; he had served an apprenticeship to be a merchant at Southwold, England, and had married there, **Mary Young**, a sister of **Capt. Joseph**, or of his wife. The identity of **William Browne** is not quite certain. The William Browne, called a shopkeeper at Salem, is supposed to be the one from the ship Love who settled in Salem and left a family which acquired distinction. However there was also a William Browne at Southold, Long Island in 1648 (more likely); who died there in 1650, and whose daughter Mary married Robert Marvin. William had a brother, Richard Brown, in London, who had descendants. "Recent investigations demonstrate that this **Capt. Joseph Young**, master of the Love, was of Southwold, in England, and married there, **Margaret**, daughter of the **Rev. Christopher Young**.

"Rev Young was Vicar of Reydon from 1611 to 1626. Reydon was the parish in which the seaport of Southwold, on the east coast of England, was situated. They, **Capt. Joseph Young and Margaret**, his wife, had a son **Joseph** baptized at old Southwold on 23rd March 1633-34, and a son **John** baptized there on the 23rd March 1635. Capt. Joseph Young, his wife Margaret, and sons Joseph and John, all came from England to Salem, Mass., and afterward to Southold, Long Island where they settled and eventually died.

"It should be noted that in 1626, **Rev. Christopher Young** was succeeded as Vicar of Reydon by **Rev. John Goldsmith**. *"The first clergyman of Southold, Long Island, the **Rev. John Youngs**, was married there and had his son baptized there. The exact relationship, if any, to the old Vicar Christopher Young, does not appear, but Rev. John named one of his sons Christopher, and so did Capt. Joseph, Master of "The Love." The maiden name of his first wife is given as Lewington, --probably should be "**Livingston**". She was a young widow when he married her. Her daughter by her first husband was named **Ann Plaggrave**, and came over with him. Ann married **Nicholas Woodbury** of Massachusetts."* (End quote)

IN REVIEW:

THE YOUNGS: Captain Joseph Young was from Southwold, Suffolk, England and married Margaret Young, daughter of Reverend Christopher Young, Vicar of the Reyden parish.

THE BROWNS: Captain Joseph Young had a sister named Mary, who married William Browne---both of whom were passengers on the Love. William was from Weybrid Hall, Suffolk, England, but had served his apprenticeship in Southwold where he met

and married his wife, Mary Young. This group later settled at Southold, Long Island, New York. (See later treatment of William Browne and John of Plymouth.)

THE CHARRALL or CHARLES': William Charles and Ursula arrived at Salem and were at Marblehead in 1648. No evidence of anyone by either name prior to that time. No known relationship to other passengers. It is not known where they originated in England.

THE HARMONS: Francis, Jo., and Sara Harmon: History of Suffield on page 33 states: *Francis Harmon came in the ship, Love, 1635, aged forty-three, from London, with children, John, age twelve, and Sarah, age ten, but no more is known of him. John of Springfield, 1644, **probably** son of Francis, was a first settler there, and had a house lot on Main Street; where he married is unknown. He brought a wife, Sara (his wife was actually Elizabeth!), and two children, John and Samuel, when he came to Springfield, and had six others born there.*

Gordon Stewart Harmon, another Harmon researcher states: "Some historians claim that he (John of Springfield) was the son of the above mentioned Francis, **but it seems more probable** that he emigrated from England about 1640 with his wife Elizabeth and two sons, John and Samuel."

William M. Clemens in The Harmon's In The Revolution--Harmon Soldiers of 1776 With Genealogical Notes on the First Harmon Settlers and Early Colonial Families says: *The first of the name of Harmon to locate in America seems to have been Francis, who arrived in Boston from London, England, July 13, 1635, in the ship "Love," Captain Joseph Lowry, (NOTE: Lowry instead of Young) who receipts for Francis Harmon, aged 43, **John Harmon, his son, aged 17**, and daughter, Sarah, aged 10. From which record it would appear that Francis Harmon must have been a widower at the time of his emigration. One account concludes with the statement, "but no more is known of him."* Then in the next paragraph, this author states: "John, the son of Francis Harmon, who was born in England in 1623, married in Plymouth Colony, Elizabeth--and they with two children, moved to and settled in Springfield, MA, in 1644, where they were among the first settlers of the town. This author also states that the oldest son of John and Elizabeth, John Jr., and his wife Mary Dorchester, were "probably the ancestors of one of the families of the several **John Harmon's** who settled in Maine."

With all due respect to the author, he certainly made a lot of assumptions in the first three paragraphs of the above named book. He first of all named the Captain of the Love wrong. It was Joseph Young and not Lowry. He assumed that "Jo" is "John" and gave him the age of 17 instead of 12. He also assumed a relationship of Jo and Sarah to Francis---which is not stated on the passenger list. He also assumed that Francis was a widower. And he is dead wrong in the assumption that John, son of John and Elizabeth of Springfield, is the ancestor of the Saco, Maine Harmon family. IF, as he claims, John was 17 in 1635—HOW could he be born in 1623 ?? Ironically, if "Jo" had indeed been 17, then he would be a more likely candidate to consider for our John. This source appears to be quite unreliable.

A newspaper clipping about Governor Judson Harmon of Ohio when he was vying for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States makes the following claim: *Francis Harmon left England in the Love and came to Boston. The family of three brothers separated, one brother removing to Pennsylvania, another to Maine, and the third, John, to Springfield between 1640 and 1644.*

In the Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford Connecticut is another statement regarding immigrant brothers: *The family originated in England, and about 1636. Three men of the name (Harmon) came to Boston. For a time all resided in the village of Roxbury, Mass., but later one went to Pennsylvania, and another to Maine, while **John Harmon**, the direct ancestor of our subject, located in 1640 in Springfield, Mass., with his family, being one of the first settlers there. This well-known pioneer was born in England in 1611, and died in Springfield in 1661. I have been unable to establish any Harmon in Roxbury records, let alone three brothers!*

In the book, London Marriage Licenses 1521-1869, edited by Joseph Foster, pg. 626, the marriage banns of **Francis Harmon** and **Katherine Cranett** are listed: *HARMON, Francis of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, Middlesex, gardener, and Katherine Cranett, spinster, daughter of... Cranett, deceased, at St. Andrew-in-the-Wardrobe, London, 18 Jan 1624/5. Bann..* The wedding took place on 2 Feb 1625. According to the estimated ages given on

the passenger list of the Ship "Love," **IF** the above Francis Harmon and the passenger on the Love were the same man, Francis would have been 33 when he married Katherine. Katherine is identified as a spinster--which means she had never been married. If "Jo." on the passenger list were 12 in 1635, Katherine may NOT have been his mother as stated on the Ancestral File--unless he was born prior to their marriage. (1635 - 12 years = 1623 birth date) The IGI (International Genealogical Index) lists a daughter, Ann, born to Francis in St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe in London, England on 8 Jul 1637--two years after the passenger of LOVE, Francis Harmon, arrived in America. There is **NO** evidence that this man, Francis Harmon, and the passenger of the "Love" are the same man. It is quite evident that the claims that Francis Harmon and Katherine Cranett are the parents of **John Harmon** of Springfield are wrong. Springfield court records clearly state that our **John Harmon** died in March 1661 at age 43. **John Harmon** died in Springfield on "*ye 7th of ye 1 mon, 1660-61; aged forty-three years.*" (1661 - 43 years = 1618 or 1617 if he was born after March in the year.) A birth date for John of Springfield of 1617 is given in several sources as you will see.

Another historian, Harriet B. Dow, claims that John is the son of Francis. However, she also asserts that this family is the same as the York, Maine, Harmons involved in the Harmon Indian Massacre of 1692. This is totally wrong as anyone familiar with the names, dates of our family can clearly see. It is the York, Maine, Harmon family that Elizabeth Cummings married into. She is often claimed as the wife of our John, which just is not so. Elizabeth Cummings was the only daughter of Capt. Richard Cummings. She married first, her cousin, John Foxwell and after his death, she married abt 1673 (12 years AFTER John of Springfield had died) a **John Harmon**, (b. Abt 1650) son of James of Saco, Maine. They had one child, a daughter, Elizabeth. Then Elizabeth Cummings died and John married 2nd abt 1675, Deborah Johnson. This John died in York in 1695.

Another possible Francis is listed in the Ancestral File as having a wife named Sarah Martin. I have found no documentation for this claim. The only thing I can imagine is that someone assumed the Sarah on the Love was the wife of Francis. If anyone has documentation for this, I would be very interested.

Likewise, I have yet to find a **SERIOUS** present-day researcher who has documentation or strong reasoning for the claim that John of Springfield is the son of Francis. I feel quite confident that "Jo," who came in the ship Love with Francis Harmon, is NOT the same person as our Springfield John. There is no child named "Francis" in the first or second generations of our Harmon family. If our immigrant ancestor were Francis, this is a most unlikely thing to have happened. Immigrant ancestors were treated with the utmost reverence and respect and their names perpetuated throughout the generations

Another thing to keep in mind is that in looking at the settlement patterns of the passengers of the "Love" that we do not find any of them in the same locality as we find John and Elizabeth. Again, that is highly unlikely--especially if relationships were involved-- remember the relationships of the other Love passengers and where they all settled!

And now, the clincher that is believed by present-day historians that: **The Ship "Love" May Have Never Left England!** To further complicate things, much more recent research done by the Great Migration Study Project claims that it is possible that the Love never even left England at all. Perhaps this could explain why we find Francis still in London having children two years after he was supposed to have arrived in America. The Great Migration Study Project has devoted much time, expertise, and money to searching out the early sailing vessels from England to New England. About the year 1635, they say: "*We have more information on the ships and their passengers for 1635 than for any other year.*"

"Finally, we take up the last pair of these six ships which were taking on passengers at the London docks in July, the Love and the Pied Cow, each of which was credited with a very small group of passengers. On the Love there were only eight entered by the port official: William and Ursula Cherrall; Francis, John and Sarah Harman; Walter Parker; and William and Mary Browne. Interestingly, of these eight only William Browne and his wife can be identified as having arrived in New England (and even that identification is not totally certain.) It would appear, then, that only two of the eight named passengers on the Love actually made it to New England. Although it is possible that the other nine died during the passage, or chose at the last minute not to make the crossing, such a high percentage of "no-shows" is not seen on the other vessels. There is not sufficient evidence to be certain, but perhaps William Browne and wife took passage

in one of the other ships leaving at that time, and the Pied Cow and Love never did sail for New England."

William Browne and John Harmon of Plymouth:

Interestingly, I found a William Browne in Plymouth who sold six acres of land to **John Harmon** on 24 Apr 1644 for fifty shillings. This same John sold the same land to Webb Adey for thirty shillings on 24 Sep 1645. This author claims the Plymouth John to be the son of Edmund Harmon of London and says he was an apprentice to Francis Cooke for seven years beginning 1 Oct 1636. This is the **ONLY** time I have ever found a connection between a **John Harmon** and a fellow passenger on the Love, if indeed it was the same William Browne. Could the Plymouth John (son of Edmund in London) be the "fellow traveler" who was assumed to be the "son" of Francis?

A **John Harmon** was on a 28 October 1645, list of Plymouth soldiers who went on campaign against the Narragansetts. Perhaps going off to war explains why John sold his land for such a loss the month prior to going on the campaign. **This Plymouth John is NOT the Springfield John Harmon**, but the one who was still in Plymouth in **1680** (19 years after the death of our Springfield John) when the court discussed the case of **John Harmon**, "a decripat man", about whom there had been debate by Taunton and Plymouth as to "which place of the two hee should belonge" and as a temporary measure split the costs of his care evenly between the two towns. This **John Harmon** came to the court's attention again in 1682 as one "*who hath for several years wandering from one towne to another and not fixed to any place...where in justice he ought to be fixed.*" He was clearly recognized as a colony resident and the court noted that immediately before King Phillip's War, this Harmon had lived in Dartmouth "*whereby hee seemed as probably to belong to that towne as to any other,*" and Dartmouth was ordered to provide for him at least until the next court session. According to Artemas C. Harmon in The Harmon Genealogy, the Plymouth John had no issue.

The most thorough researcher of the Harmon family, by far, appears to me to be George Washington Harmon. His work is brought forth by Artemus C. Harmon in his book, Harmon Genealogy: All Branches in New England published in 1920 by Gibson Brothers in Washington, D.C. It is quite significant to me that neither of these genealogists claim Francis to be the father of the Springfield John!



THEORY #3

In August 1635, a **John Harmon** sailed in the ship BACHELOR, John Webber, master, from London for Boston. He was a mariner and desired to seek employment upon arrival in America.,

PASSENGERS OF THE BACHELOR:

"BACHELOR, Thomas Webb, Master, of twenty-five tons, sailed for New England August 11, 1635 and arrived November 28, 1635. "*Here arrived,*" wrote Winthrop, *'a small Norsey Bark, sent by the Lords Say, etc. with one, Gardiner, an expert engineer, or work base, and provisions of all sorts, to begin a fort at the mouth of the Connecticut. Her passengers twelve men, two women and goods, all safe.'*" Named Passengers include:

Lyon Gardiner, 36, probably of London---going to Long Island, New York
Mrs. Mary Gardiner, 34
Elizabeth Coles, servant, 23
William Jope, 40
Ten unnamed men

I found another brief mention of the Bachelor passengers: "*Passengers on the Bachelor of that year*

included a dozen servants for Winthrop to dispose of as he saw fit. The Bachelor was a tiny bark of twenty-five tons, so the journey must have been miserable.” Apparently Governor Winthrop had relatives and friends in England whom he asked to locate and send servants to New England. It was a tough assignment as many desirable young people could not be induced to leave their homeland to serve as servants. They were concerned about what their wages should be and how long they would have to serve; whether apparel would be furnished, who would pay passage and what their diet would be. Robert Barrington, Edward Hopkins and Phillip Nye, Puritan associates of John Winthrop Jr., in London and Essex sent servants to Massachusetts in 1635 with this apology, “We have sent you some servants but not so many as we proposed.”

The book, Shipwrights, Fishermen, Passengers from England states: “Another interesting vessel was the *BACHELOR* of London, Thomas Webb, master, which on 11th Aug 1635, received Lyon Gardiner aet. 36; Mary, his wife, aet. 34; Eliza Colet, their maid servant, aet. 23, and Wm Jope, aet. 40, who were to pass to New England, having brought certificate of their conformity. The vessel, called a Norsey bark brought over **12 men**. The lasting memorial of this passage is our Gardiner’s Island and its inhabitants.”

Gardiner’s Island is in Long Island, New York, west of Montauk Point. It was settled in 1639 as a part of East Hampton township, Suffolk County, New York. Lion Gardiner was the son of Lionel Gardiner and Elizabeth Woodhouse. He was born in 1599 in England; married Mary Willemson in Woerden, Holland, The Netherlands, on 10 Jul 1635—just one month prior the sailing of The Bachelor. Mary was born about 1601 in Woerden. I have not been able to identify Elizabeth Coles/Colet or William Jope..

Interestingly enough, I did find one reference from a Vermont history that claims our ancestor was one of the passengers on the Bachelor: “**John Harmon**, born 1617, London, England---sailed from London to Boston, Mass on the ship, Bachelor. He was one of the first settlers in Springfield.”

The question here is where the author of the Vermont history got his information. Was it family tradition? If it is correct, then is John one of the unnamed servants? Could the maidservant, Elizabeth (Coles/Colet), have become his wife? **This is merely speculation!** PLEASE do not run out and put this on your records! There is no proof and not even any good clues---just something to wonder about and to spur researchers on! Notice that none of the prominent historians make this claim and I am sure they thought about whether or not it could be possible. Servants usually served for seven years. Our John was granted land and considered a settler in Springfield in 1643—although it appears from the records that he was in Springfield prior to that time. He married about 1640 and in the early records, his wife’s surname has never been given.

In further research, I have found some very interesting connections between the Winthrops, Mr. William Pynchon, founder of Springfield, MA, and the “Bachelor”: “Pynchon left England with John Winthrop’s voyage on March 29, 1630. Within months of landing, Pynchon began trafficking in furs, raising livestock and farming. His boats plied the New England coast as far north as Sagadahock, Maine”. A Nov 1631 entry in Winthrop’s journal reads: “Mr. Pynchon’s boat, coming from Sagadahock, was cast away at Cape Ann, but the men and chief goods saved, and the boat recovered.” By 1634, Pynchon was the leading fur trader in Massachusetts. Both Governor Winthrop and his son, John, became heavily involved in obtaining necessary trading goods for Pynchon’s purchase of furs. When in 1635, Pynchon left Roxbury, MA for the Connecticut Valley, he frequently corresponded with the Winthrops. In fact, **William Pynchon used Governor Winthrop’s “Bachelor” to transport goods to the new plantation** taking bulky equipment and provisions as far as Wethersfield. In my way of thinking, it is very possible that the Springfield **John Harmon** was one of the unnamed persons who came with the Winthrop fleet in The Bachelor to New England from London. It is even more likely, that however he managed to come to New England, that he came from Roxbury to Springfield in the “Bachelor.”

✂ The bottom line is---we don’t know when John of Springfield came to New England and we have not proven his parentage.✂



In searching the International Genealogical Index (IGI) for **John Harmons** born in England in the time period that our John should have been born, I discounted every entry for a **John Harmon** that was submitted by a private individual because there is no way for me to know the source of their information to the IGI. Instead I looked ONLY at those names that were extracted from original parish registers. I located two **John Harmon** entries with the dates that have traditionally been given for our John. I will mention them here, but again, I have found NOTHING that ties them to John of Springfield--but on the other hand, I have not seriously looked yet! The two extracted names from original parish registers are:

1. **John Harmon** born 1617 at Ticehurst, Sussex, England. Father John.
2. John Harman chr. 18 Aug 1611 East Grinstead, Sussex, England. Father George Harman; Mother Annis.



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ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

*About the year 1640 **John Harmon**, i.e. John the first, born in England, 1617, landed in Boston, America, and after a year or two in Roxbury, joined the few under their leader, Pynchon, on the fertile banks of the Connecticut River and was one of the first settlers of Springfield, MA.*

Roxbury was founded in 1630--two miles south of Boston, Massachusetts. Between April 1630 and December over 200 deaths had occurred in Boston due to fevers and scurvy.

Webster's Dictionary defines scurvy as a disease characterized by skin spots, swollen gums, bleeding in the mucous membranes, and general debility, caused by a deficiency of Vitamin C in the diet for a long period of time. Those who had their health worked at building shelter from the wet and cold. Food was scarce and almost daily the workers were interrupted by sickness--and many died weekly. Among those to die was Mrs. William Pynchon. Ships began to return to England and over one hundred pilgrims returned--those who stayed were glad to see them go because of the shortage of supplies.

The Boston pilgrims held fast days seeking God's mercy and remembering how He had raised up their neighbors at Plymouth after their tribulations. They began to consult about fit places to build a town. They had lost half their cows, almost all their mares and goats during the ocean voyage.

Under the direction of William Pynchon, the first-comers to Roxbury settled in the easterly part of town next to Boston. A town law was passed that no person should live beyond half a mile from the meeting house. Roxbury was the sixth town incorporated in Massachusetts and was so named because of the common pudding-stones which abounded there amid the rich and productive soil. These stones were used in building and their brownish hue gave an air of antiquity to the newest structure. Geologists claim that this stone was laid down by glacial action. Although this stone was very abundant in Roxbury, it was not to be found whatever in Boston. The most abundant farms and gardens in the state existed on the land over these rocks.

The Roxbury colonists were mostly from London and its vicinity, a few being from the West of England. They were people of substance--many of whom were farmers. It is stated that none of the settlers of Roxbury were "of the poorer sort." Nazing, a rural village in Essex County, England, was the home of many of the first settlers of Roxbury and the Nazing Parish Church is regarded as the parent of the First Church of Roxbury. Between the years 1631 and 1640 many people from the parish of Nazing left their beloved homes, braved the ocean voyage--many on the ship "Lyon" in 1631 and came to establish a Christian commonwealth in the wilderness. In 1635 they were followed by a large number of Nazing Christians who came over in the "Hopewell".

One of the early colonists wrote that *"bread was so very scarce that sometimes I thought the very crumbs of my father's table would be sweet unto me, and when I could have meal and water and salt boiled together, it was so good---who could wish better?"* After 1633, a season of abundance ensued and emigrants steadily poured in.

William Pynchon was *"a gentleman of learning and religion,"* and is regarded as the *Principal founder of the town of Roxbury, and the first member who joins in forming the Congregational Church there.* The first settlers who came at their own expense, were entitled to fifty acres of land. For each that could pay fifty pounds to the common stock of the company, they received 200 acres and those who brought over servants were allowed fifty acres for each servant.

The earliest list of inhabitants of the town is dated sometime between 1636 and 1640. **John Harmon** is not on this list at the time he is reported to have been in Roxbury. Since this list appears to be land holders, it is possible that John came as a servant to one of the settlers. It is also possible that he, as a member of Pynchon's group, had already left Roxbury. Note that William Pynchon's name is not on this list either--nor are the other early settlers of

Springfield.

A Note of Ye Estates and Persons of the Inhabitants of Roxbury

Edward Pason	Robert Seauer	Abraham Newell	John Johnson
Martin Stebbin	John Corteis	Samuel Chapin	William Curteis
John Totman	John Matthew	William Cheiny	George Holmes
Laurence Wittamore	Abraham Howe	John Pettit	William Parke
John Stonnard	Arthur Gray	Robert Williams	John Gore
Giles Payson	John Bowles	William Perkins	Isaac Morrill
Gawin Anderson	Isaac Johnson	John Graues	George Alcock
Richard Peacocke	Ralph Hemminway	Edward Porter	John Stow
John Ruggles	John Buzwell	John Roberts	Elder Heath
John Levins	Thomas Waterman	Daniel Brewer	Wm. Denison
Edward Bugbie	Samuel Flinch	James Atwood	John Weld
Edward Rigges	William Webb	John Miller	Joshua Hewes
Edward Bridge	Thomas Pigge	Griffin Craft	Philip Eliot
Thomas Ruggles	John Perry	Thomas Lamb	Mr. Thomas Weld
Thomas Griggs	Francis Smith	John Watson	Mr. Thomas Dudley
John Hall	Robert Gamlin	Mr. John Elliot	
John Trumble	William Chandler	Thomas Bell	
Richard Peper	Widow Iggulden	Samuel Hagborne	

The value of lists such as this list of early residents of Roxbury is immeasurable. Perhaps among these names are the family of Elizabeth or relatives of **John Harmon**. As this book progresses, note with special interest those persons who were not only in Roxbury--but later went to Springfield. It is possible that most of those who went to Springfield had already left before this "census" was taken as Pynchon led his little band down the river beginning in 1636.

From Wood's "New England's Prospect," the earliest topographical account of the Massachusetts colony, published in 1634, the author of Roxbury Persons and Places makes this first printed description of Roxbury:

"A mile from the town (Dorchester) lieth Roxberry which is a faire and handsome countrey town, the inhabitants of it being all very rich. This town lieth upon the maine so that it is well wooded and watered, having a cleare and fresh Brooke running through the towne; up which, although there come noe alewives, yet there is great store of smelts, and therefore it is called Smelt Brooke. A quarter of a mile to the north side of the towne is another river, called Stony River, upon which is bult a water milne. Here is good ground for corne, and meadow for cattle: Up westward from the town it is something rocky, whence it hath the name of Roxberry; the inhabitants have faire houses, store of cattle, imaped corne fields and fruitful gardens. Here is no harbor for ships because the towne is seated in the bottom of a shallow bay, which is made by the necke of land on which Boston is built, so that they can transport all their goods from the ships in boats from Boston which is the nearest harbor."

WILLIAM PYNCHON

William Pynchon was born 26 Dec 1590 Springfield, Essex, England. He was a "*gentleman of learning*". He married Anna Andrew (Andrews) and had one son and three daughters when he embarked for New England. His son, John Pynchon, stayed behind and came on a different ship. William left England on March 29, 1630 with John Winthrop's fleet accompanied by his wife and three daughters. William brought over several servants promising them 50 acres of land each. Not all the passengers are named, however incomplete passenger lists are available at several sites on the internet. Could **John Harmon** have been one of these unnamed servants? He has been reported to have been at Roxbury with Pynchon and then one of the first settlers of Springfield. In fact one record, as will be seen in the next chapter, claims John was a fence viewer in 1635. If this is correct, he would have gone with Pynchon on his exploration of the Connecticut River and probably remained behind with the cattle to watch the fence.

In 1630 John Winthrop organized a fleet of 11 ships to carry immigrants from England to America. Departing in two groups in April and May, they arrived at various dates in June and July. These ships were:

The Ambrose	The Arbella (Flagship)	The Charles
The Hopewell	The Jewel	The Success
The Talbot	The Trial	The Whale
The William & Francis	The Mayflower (Not the same ship which carried the Plymouth Colony passengers in 1620)	

These first settlers, numbering scarcely 1000 from the counties of Dorset, Essex and Suffolk-- although of comfortable estate in England, abandoned their homes and farms, and made a perilous Atlantic passage to settle in an unknown wilderness. They were motivated by their desire to practice religion free from the persecution of the Crown-Church of England. About one-third perished during or soon after their voyage and may be considered martyrs for their faith.

William Pynchon settled first at Dorchester, but within a short time removed to Roxbury--an adjoining settlement nearer to Boston. He is noted as the principal founder of Roxbury and "*one of the first foundation of the church*" in that town. Shortly after her arrival, Anna died due to a wide-spread sickness. William then married Frances Sanford, widow of [possibly Mr. Francis] Smith. She was known as the "*grave matron of the church at Dorchester*." Her son by her first marriage, Henry Smith, "*a godly, wise young man*," later married William's daughter, Anne Pynchon, and figured prominently in the settlement of the plantation of Agawam on the banks of the Connecticut River. In the same fleet as William Pynchon was a Francis Smith and a Mrs. Smith who settled at Roxbury. A John Sanford is listed as having a daughter, Frances who could possibly be this Frances Smith who may have married Mr. Francis Smith. See: <http://members.aol.com/WinthropSQ/passengers.htm> and <http://members.aol.com/WinthropSQ/planters.htm>.

It wasn't very long after Roxbury had been settled that three Indians turned up with a rich load of furs of beaver, fox, otter, wolf, and mink. These Indians told of the Connecticut River as a place of fine fishing, good hunting, and with fertile land for farming.

Pynchon and a few followers went in a shallop from Boston searching for an ideal place to build a trading post and establish a Puritan "plantation." A shallop is a small open boat using oars or sail. It is used in shallow waters. This scouting party told glowing tales of their trip and brought back samples of the hemp they found growing abundantly along the Connecticut River. Later Pynchon sent John Cable and John Woodcock to the area with cattle, and they built a house on the west side of the Connecticut River.

1635 was a time of religious upheaval in the Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth Colony areas and it was at this time that Roger Williams was sent away from the colony because of his religious practices. He and his followers founded a colony at Rhode Island. In May 1635, some of the inhabitants of Roxbury were granted liberty to remove to another location, provided they continue under the Bay government. The colony at Agawam (Springfield) was also a religious colony and when William left Roxbury, he left in company with Thomas Hooker's group who were leaving New Towne for religious reasons.

After quietly sailing past meadow lands known to the Indians as “Masacksic”, he reached the place where the Agawam and Connecticut Rivers converge. To Pynchon, it appeared to be the ideal place for his economic and religious foray into the wilderness. It was above the Enfield Falls and thus safe from warships. It provided water access to the Berkshires and greatly desired beaver. There was enough meadow land to support farms and cattle. He and his associates, Henry Smith (son-in-law) and Jehu Burr--and perhaps others from Roxbury--entered into an oral agreement with the Indians to purchase some of their land on the west side of the Connecticut. They contemplated a settlement of not more than fifty families.

Pynchon returned to Roxbury to recruit other settlers. Efforts were made to attract settlers with specific skills needed by a developing community. He procured Mr. George Maxon to go as the minister for the colony; Benjamin Cooley, an expert weaver of both flax and wool; George Colton who had business expertise. He also recruited people skilled in trapping--for this was to become a fur-trading operation.

When Pynchon returned in 1636 to the area of the new settlement, he found some angry Indians because the cattle he had left behind in the care of Cable and Woodcock the previous year had trampled the Indian corn crop. Pynchon was forced to establish his plantation on the east side of the river in order to keep peace with the Indians. Included in the purchase of the land from the Indians was the “Masacksic”--the Indian word for long meadow. When the settlers drew up their compact in the summer of 1636 and agreed upon the religious foundation for their economic enterprise, the “long-meadow” to the south was set aside as a common pasture to be used equally by all residents. Another story is that the Indians warned Pynchon of the flooding problem on the meadows so they decided that the east bank would be a better place for their settlement.



In 1636 Thomas Hooker led a migration from New Towne (now Cambridge), Massachusetts, to Hartford, Connecticut, and became the leader of the settlement. Depicted in this sketch is the Thomas Hooker party on their journey to Connecticut.

Connecticut Hist. Society



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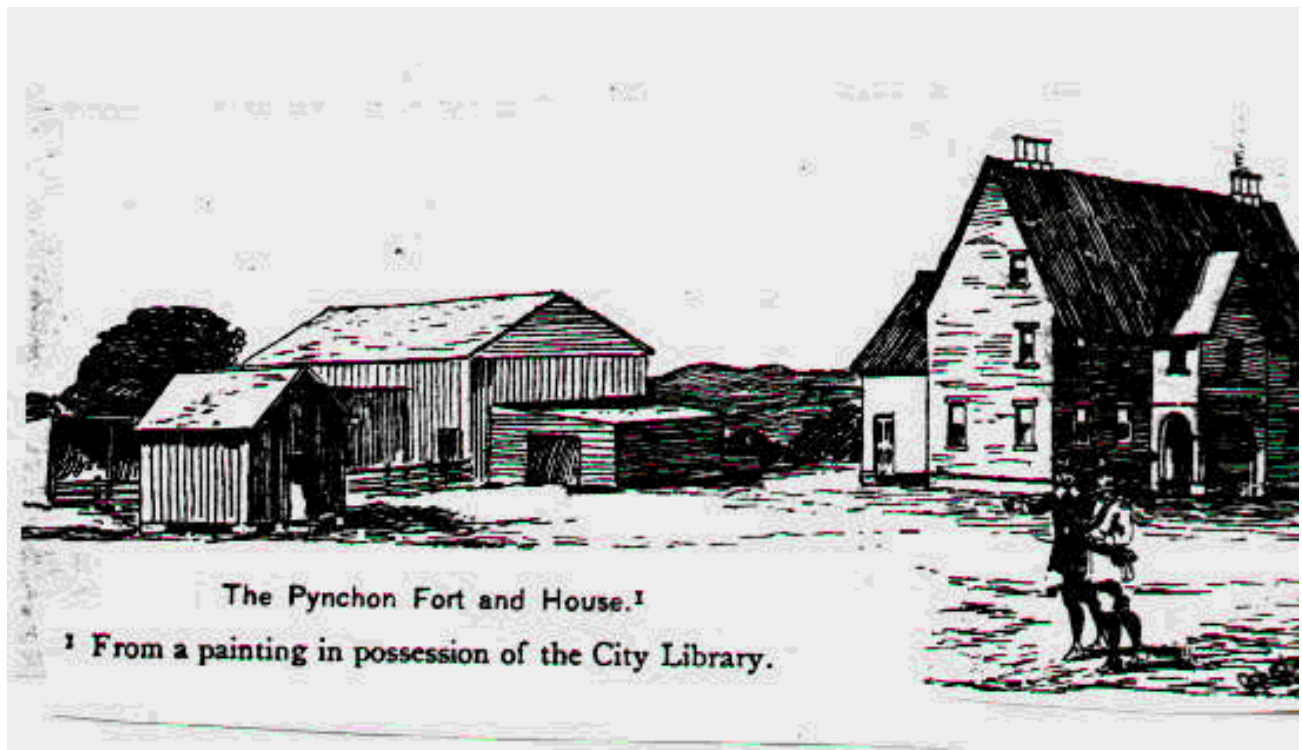
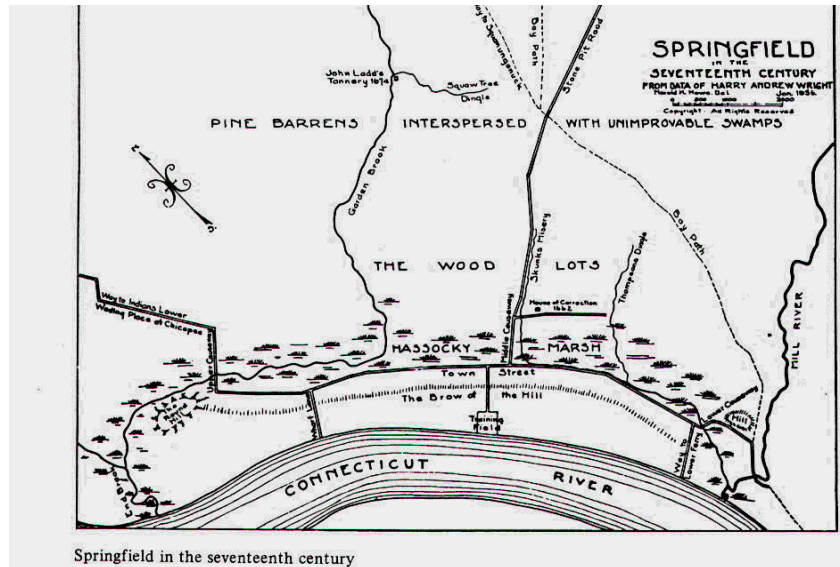
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<http://www.longmeadow.org/ourtown/history.htm>



Establishing a Settlement:

William Pynchon and others of Roxbury took the westward course to the Great River, but instead of continuing down the river as the Massachusetts Bay men had done, they stopped at its banks and made a settlement at Agawam. They constructed a warehouse and warf for purposes of trade with the Indians. The Bay Path Trail was a footpath which extended throughout New England and wound through the Springfield area and was an important route for the primitive commerce system.

The trading post established by Pynchon's group was called Agawam after the local Indian tribe. The Puritans of New England originally called the area around Springfield the "Agawam Plantation". In 1633-34 a smallpox epidemic spread death throughout the New World and the Agawam Indians did not escape. Fewer than 200 were now living in the Springfield area. The small population of peaceable Indians and the abundant supply of beaver and fertile farmland encouraged Pynchon.

Agawam was purchased from the Indians. In New England Historian & Genealogical Register, Vol 1 is an interesting notation regarding Joseph Parsons, an early settler: "*Joseph appears as a witness to the deed from the Indians of the lands of (Springfield) to William Pynchon and others-Joseph Parsons did at a Court in Northampton, holden March, 1662, testifie that he was a wit-ness to a deed of the lands at Springfield, and a bargain between the Indians and Mr. Pynchon, dated 15 Jul 1636, for 18 fathoms of wampom, 18 coates, 18 hatchets, 18 hoes, 18 knives.*"

The grant of Longmeadow was part of a deed that covered three parcels of land: the west side of the Connecticut River, the east side from Pecousic Brook north to the Chikuppe River, and the long meadowe (Masacksic) from the Pecousic Brook south to Raspberry Brook. Masacksic means "*the great land or the great meadow.*" Four fathoms of wampum, four coats, four hatchets, four hoes, and four knives constituted the purchase price of the Longmeadow portion. The agreement was signed by William Pynchon, Henry Smith, John (Jehu) Burr, and eleven Indians who made their marks of arrows, canoes, and feathers to signify their agreement.

A fathom, anciently, was the length the arms could be stretched out. Wampum is beads made of shells and strung together. This wampum was used by the American Indians as money and for ornaments.



Wampum beads

The Indians were allowed to continue to hunt on the meadow land and to grow crops there. If their corn was damaged by the settler's grazing cattle, the Indians were paid full damages. A specific condition in the Long Meadowe region provided that "*the Indians not be wronged in their crops of pease (cranberries).*"

To pay for the land taken from the Indians, assessments were made on the settlers, the first of which was levied in 1639, of which William Pynchon paid more than half. This assessment was made on the thirteen persons then holding home lots.

For about nine years the meadow land was held as community property and used as a common pasture. In 1645 the residents of Springfield voted to distribute the land to individual people as farm lots. **John Harmon** was one of those who received land at this time on the meadows. It took two years to prepare this land for agriculture. The meadows were dotted with wild cranberry bogs, ponds and swamps and they were subject to frequent flooding. A road was built from Springfield into the meadows including a bridge over the Pecousic River. This road was eventually extended to Warehouse Point. **John Harmon** played a part in building both the road and bridge as you will later see.

Pynchon was an experienced fur trader and business man--in fact, he is regarded as one of the most important fur traders in Massachusetts Bay prior to 1650. The warehouse, constructed on the lower end of Enfield Falls, which was the head of navigation for seagoing vessels, was located at what is still called Warehouse Point. This warehouse played a part in the success of the fur trading operations. The site afforded easy access to the upper reaches of the Connecticut, to the Bay via overland paths, and to the Mohawk country via the Westfield River. Out of this trading post at Agawam grew the Springfield settlement--which was named for the birthplace of its chief settler, William Pynchon.

After his arrival in the colony, Pynchon was chosen assistant and magistrate yearly until May 1637. He also served as Treasurer of the Massachusetts Bay Company during this time.

The General Court of Massachusetts granted a commission on 3 Mar 1635/36, limited to a one-year period to Roger Ludlow, William Pynchon, John Steele, William Swaine, Henry Smith, William Phelps, William Westwood, and Andrew Ward or the greater part of them with full authority to hear and determine all differences which might arise between party and party as well as misdemeanors, to inflict capital punishment or imprisonment, and to impose fines. Also granted was the power to make such orders for the peaceable and quiet ordering of the affairs of the plantation. When the commission expired, the inhabitants of the River towns set up an independent government by electing magistrates including William Pynchon and Henry Smith. For some time after that, there were troubles between Pynchon and the General Court. Pynchon was taxed without representation--a twelve pence per pound tax was imposed on all beaver skins received in trade with the Indians--and he was also accused of trying to set up a monopoly on the fur trade business.

It was from this group of settlers on the Quinni-tukq-ut (Connecticut) River that Americans produced the first written constitution known to history that created a government. Here also, America received her democratic philosophy as expressed by Thomas Hooker of Hartford: *"the foundation of authority of government is laid firstly in the free consent of the people."*

In 1639, there were at least fifteen men in Agawam. These men were taxed forty pounds (agreed upon on 13 Jan 1639) to meet the expenses of building a residence for their minister, Mr. Moxon. Two known residents are missing from the list. They are Mr. Moxon and Henry Gregory. These men will be discussed in greater detail in a later chapter:

John Searle	John Leonard	Richard Everit	Henry Smith	John Cable
Thomas Horton	Robart Ashly	John Alline	Jehu Burr	(Mr. Moxon)
Thomas Mirack	John Woodcock	John Burt	William Pynchon	(Henry Gregory)



Traveling in the Wilderness:

One writer claims that *"About the year 1640 **John Harmon**, (i.e. John the first), born in England, 1617, landed in Boston, America, and after a year or two in Roxbury, joined the few under their leader, Pynchon, on the fertile banks of the Connecticut River and was one of the first settlers of Springfield, MA."*

One wonders what it was like in Springfield at that time. Miles Morgan was a contemporary of **John Harmon**. He was born in 1616 in Wales and came to this country in 1636. It is not known just when he arrived in Springfield, but he was granted five pieces of land prior to January 1646, so he was in Springfield in its early days along with our ancestors. Let's take a peek into his life:

This interesting story surrounding the marriage of Miles Morgan to Prudence Gilbert gives an interesting picture of the area and the stamina of the early citizens:

"On his passage from England, Miles Morgan formed an acquaintance with a young woman who belonged to a family which on their arrival settled in Beverly, MA. To her he determined to prefer his suit. This he did by letter, in which he proposed to her to become his wife, and the sharer of his dubious fortunes in the wilderness.

To his frank proposal, she with equal frankness wrote him an explicit answer and avowed her willingness to comply with his wishes. Her suitor, it appears, was resolved to prosecute the affair like a man of business.

On receiving an answer so favorable to his inclinations, he immediately engaged two of his friends and an Indian to attend him in his matrimonial expedition, and departed with all convenient speed, taking with them an old horse for the purpose of conveying the household stuff of the intended bride to her future habitation; and their muskets with which they might put to flight the armies of the aliens, who might perchance molest them in their pilgrimage to and from the land of the people to the East. The matrimonial contract having been satisfied in due form, the old pack horse received his destined burden; the bridegroom and his companions shouldered their muskets and thus escorted the bride to Springfield, who walked with them on foot, the whole distance from Beverly to that place, about an

hundred and twenty miles."

The same article describes the journey of Widow Margaret (maiden name-Lawrence or Hulen) Bliss and her eight children from Hartford to Springfield: *"In the year 1643, Margaret sold her property in Hartford, and gathering her household goods and cattle together, prepared with her eight children to make the journey through the forest to Springfield, which was accomplished in about five days. A journey like this was thought a great thing in those days. They camped out in the forest three nights with their teams. The country was so sparsely settled at the time; and the forests infested with savage beasts and scarcely less savage Indians. The forests were broken only by the single roads to the seaboard, on the east and on the south, and these were by no means the best."* Margaret Bliss was the mother of Elizabeth Bliss, second wife of Miles Morgan. Miles was the butcher for many years in Springfield.



SPRINGFIELD:

The original Indian name for Springfield was Agawam--meaning Crooked River or lowland meadow. When the settlers established the framework of making an official town, they selected the name Springfield after the birthplace of the founder, William Pynchon. Springfield began as a religious and economic enterprise by people who were enchanted by both the Bible and the beaver!

A good description of the way Springfield looked in the beginning is found in the book *Town Into City* by Michael H. Frisch:

"A sandy strip of humpbacked land ran along the river, less than half a mile wide between the river and a broad marsh to the east. Beyond the marsh rose a sharp wooded bluff, stepping further eastward and upward, almost like a natural terrace, to a broad and desolate plateau that reached back for miles towards distant mountains. Here and there, sudden ravines and valleys slashed the line of these north-south ridges, making the terrain rugged and unpredictable, and in fact hemming in on all sides the narrow riverside strip which was to be the heart of Springfield.

To its north stood a high mound later called Round Hill, to the south another cluster of rolling hills dominated by a ridge called Long Hill, and behind each of these, curving around to the river in a great crescent, lay the Hassocky Marsh, named for the large clumps of earth and grasses dotting it.

Completing the picture and providing a further sort of symmetry, there was a modest stream to be known as Mill River joining the Connecticut below Long hill, while a smaller one trickled out of the hills near the center of the strip, then turning north and meandering to the river above Round Hill.

The settlers parceled out town, wood, and farm lots on a lineal plan based on Main Street, raised their crops, and traded with the friendly Agawam Indians. The little colony had become more or less self-sufficient, with several craftsmen, a minister, a mill or two, and even a jailhouse, the first building on the slope at the far side of the marsh."

Another description given in 1794, by a visitor who recorded his impression of Springfield:

"The white spire of the Springfield church, embosomed in trees, animated the scene in a manner remarkably picturesque...We arrived at sundown.

The town is built on a single street parallel to the river nearly two miles. The houses are chiefly on the western side. On the eastern side a brook runs almost the whole length. From the street a marsh extends forty or fifty rods to the brow of an elevated pine plain. The waters of this marsh are a collection of living springs too cold and too active to allow putrefecation on their surface and for this reason, the town is not unhealthy. Part of the marsh has been converted into a meadow.

The houses of Springfield are more uniformly well-built than those of any other inland town in the state except Worcester. An uncommon appearance of neatness prevails almost everywhere, refreshing the eye of the traveler."

The settlement was at first communal and each person was required to give a portion of time to community building efforts. Anyone missing a town meeting was fined one bushel of Indian corn for his absence.

The Indians roamed the entire region at will and were quite a menace to the settlers. Some resented the invasion of the white men upon the land of their forefathers. The danger was real, but there was a period of comparative peace with the Indians beginning in about 1637.

Later Springfield would be known as the site of a major United States Armory that was in operation from 1794 to 1966. The first arms depot was established there in 1777. Springfield is the site of the development of the Springfield Rifle (1903) and the Garland Rifle (1937).

In 1641 town orders were passed requiring fire ladders with “16 rungs or steps at least” at each house. Also carrying of uncovered fire through the streets was prohibited. They were required to keep their animals under control and frequently fined if any damage was done. One of the first buildings after the pioneers had been housed was a saw mill on Mill River--and a temporary bridge was thrown across the stream until a more substantial one was built in 1643.

In January 1642, a second division of planting-ground was decreed. Single persons were to have 8 rods in breadth; married persons ten rods in breadth; larger families to have 12 rods to begin upward at the edge of the hill on Chestnut Street.

1642 PLANTING GROUND GRANTED:

John Woodcock, 8 rods	Wid. Searle, 10 rods	Robrt Ashly, 8 rods
John Deeble, 8 rods	Rowl: Stebbins, 10 rods	Tho. Stebbins, 8 rods
Sam Hubbard, 10 rods	Tho. Mirack, 10 rods	Sam. Wright, 10 rods
Hen. Burt, 12 rods	Hen. Smith, 10 rods	Mr. Moxon, 10 rods
Will Warener, 10 rods	Rich. Sikes, 10 rods	Wid. Horton, 10 rods
John Leonard, 10 rods	Hen Grigory, 8 rods	Eliz. Hollyoke, 10 rods

A town order read: “*It is ordered that there shall be a bridge and a highway made to ye mill for ye passage of carts and cattle those ye were wanting in ye work of ye former bridge to make it up in ye and then to go through ye towne every man his day and what is done by every man to be kept on account and to be made even when they make ye way over ye meadow.*”

It is reported that **John Harmon** was a member of Pyncheon’s colony at Springfield in 1643--and perhaps as early as 1635. “**John Harmon**, the progenitor of the Harmon family of Suffield, Connecticut, was born in England in 1617, died in Springfield, Massachusetts, ‘ye 7th of ye 1 mon. 1660-61.’ aged forty-three years. He settled at Springfield in 1643, and was granted land.”

On Feb 12, 1649, the record states: ‘It is ordered ye George Colton and Thomas Cooper who is ye Towne treasurer should with your best discretion lay out the second parcells of Meadow granted ye last yeare, to Henry Burt 4 acres, Tho. Mirick 4 acres, Alex. Edwards 4 acres, Jno. Harman 4 acres in ye Longe meadow over ye Brooke.’

January 22, 1651, **John Harmon** was grantee of lot 6, two and one-half acres ‘on Pocowick.’ ‘February 8, 1654, these parsells of meadow commonly called by the name of Wattochnett was granted these inhabitants as followeth: **John Harmon** 3 acres, etc.

He also received a grant of land ‘over ye mill river’ containing three acres in 1655. He also received other grants of land. In ‘a rate for ye raysinge of 30 pounds for the purchase of the lands of the Plantation 1646, **John Harmon** was assessed 9s. 2d. On the thirty-three acres of land. **John Harmon** was one of six persons seated by the selectmen in the third seat of the church, December 23, 1659.

He was a man of good character, and was made fence viewer, 1635; surveyor of highways of the lower part of the town November 2, 1647, and November 2, 1658. November 4, 1656, he was chosen to the office of 'presenter to present breaches of the laws of the county or of town orders and to which service he took his oath.' He married, in 1640 Elizabeth, whose surname does not appear. She was born in England in 1617. After the death of **John Harmon** she married **Anthony Dorchester**, who died in Springfield August 28, 1683. She died in Springfield May 16, 1699, aged ninety-one years. The children of John and Elizabeth were: John, Samuel, Sarah, Joseph, Elizabeth, Mary, Nathaniel, Ebenezer. The first two were born before John's settlement at Springfield."

If the 1635 date is correct for being made a fence viewer, John would probably have been one of the explorers of the Pynchon group who sailed down the river seeking a place to settle and would have stayed behind to watch the cattle that they did not stray from within the fence---but the cattle did stray and the little colony had disagreements with the Indians over it and were not able to purchase their first choice in land for their settlement. His name would not appear at that time because he would still be considered a "servant."

The settlers had many natural enemies. During the summer of 1646 a plague of caterpillars in great numbers caused damage to the wheat. Overwhelming flocks of pigeons assaulted the crops and the wolves were a constant threat to the sheep. A bounty of 10d was paid for every wolf killed within five miles of the town. This bounty was raised from a tax upon all sorts of cattle, including horses. The winter of 1646-47 was followed by terrible floods. The fall of 1647 the settlers were plagued with an epidemic of sickness.

Sabbath Day observance was greatly enhanced by the building of a meetinghouse. John Matthews was ordered to "*beat the drum for meetings for a years space at 10 of ye clock on the lectures days and at 9 o'clock on the Lord's days in the forenoon only, and he is to beat it from Mr. Moxon to Mr. Stebbins' house and ye meetings to begin within half an hour after.*" A few years later, a bell was procured and Richard Sikes rang it and swept the meeting house. A tax for the support of the minister, Mr. George Moxon, was raised by taxing all lands and goods. Wheat, Indian corn, and peas were accepted for taxes.

Selectmen for the town chosen in the autumn of 1645 were: Lieutenant Smith, Richard Sikes, Samuel Chapin, Thomas Cooper, and Henry Burt. In 1646, the Selectmen were: Henry Smith, Elizur Holyoke, Samuel Chapin, Henry Burt, and Benjamin Cooley. Robert Ashley was licensed to keep the ordinary.

An interesting town order of 1646 read: "*All swine that break into any mans corne ground or meadowe that is sufficiently fenced against yoked hoggs: in case men let their Swine run abroad unyoked if they break in and doe any man Trespass, then the master of the said Swine shall be lyable to pay all damages as two indifferent men shall Judge ye damage to be: but if Swine be yoked and range then they are free from damages.*"

The next year, the townsmen were still dealing with this problem and we read: "*All swine that keepe about his howse or neere any corne ground belonging to the Plantation and not under the hand or custody of a keeper, shall be sufficiently yoked and range, according to the age and bigness of the swine: And in case any Swine that are above the age of six months shall be found in the streete or about any of the Common fences of the corn fields without yoke and runge: It shall be lawfull for any person soe finding them, to drive them to the pound (which may be any man's private yard or out howse in the present defect of a common pound) provided also that he give the owner of the said Swine notice of his impoundinge them with in 24 hours after it is soe done.*"

In 1647, the townsmen began keeping a better record of their acts at town meetings. New selectmen of the town included Thomas Cooper who served on the board in place of Holyoke; Francis Ball and Miles Morgan were made surveyors for the upper part of town while John Clarke and John Herman for the lower part of town. The special instructions they were given in addition to keeping the highways in good condition were to open "*a horse way over the meadow to ye Bay path,*" and a "*Bridge over the 3 corner Brooke into the plaine.*" These selectmen served until 1650.

At the beginning of 1647, there were forty-two lot owners in Springfield and six vacant lots. Three of the men who had been previously prominent had returned to Connecticut. They are Jehu Burr, John Cable, and John Woodcock. These lists were kept by Pynchon and are invaluable to genealogy researchers as they give a good picture of who was there, when, and also the affluence, etc. of the community and individuals. This list is the first list that my ancestor, **John Harmon** appears; although I have found records of land grants prior to this time.

1647 Lot Owners in Springfield, Massachusetts:

OWNER:	ACRES				
Rowland Thomas	29½	Francis Ball	33	Nat. Bliss	51 ½
John Stebbins	27½	Robert Ashley	51	Wid. Haynes	40 ½
Miles Morgan	34½	John Leonard	34 ½	Tho. Tomson	56 ½
James Osburne	40	Thomas Miric	46	Rich. Exell	40 ½
Thomas Cooper	41	J. Bridgeman	41	Jos. Parsons	42 ½
William Pynchon	237	Alex. Edwards	60 ½	Jno. Matthews	33
Elizur Holyoke	125	Jno. Clarke	36	Will Branch	27 ½
Henry Smith	148	Widow Debble	22	Geo. Colton	61
Mr. George Moxon	67	Katherine Johns	19	Grif. Jones	36 ½
Samuel Chapen	43	Rowland Stebbins	38 ½	Reice Bedortha	20
Thomas Reeve	32	Samuel Wright	41½	Will. Vahan	6
Richard Sykes	39½	Henry Burt	47½	Benj. Cooly	40 ½
William Warener	40½	Jno. Herman	33	Hugh Parsons	37 ½
Thomas Stebbin	34	Roger Pritchard	28	Jno. Lumbard	25

The Long Meddowe:

When the settlers of Springfield drew up their compact in the summer of 1636 and agreed upon the religious foundation of their economic enterprise, the “long meddowe” to the south was set aside to use as a common pasture land to be used equally by all residents. A high bluff south of downtown Springfield, reached almost to the Connecticut River, making the “long meddowe” a distinct geographic entity. The meadows were dotted with wild cranberry bogs, ponds, and swamps, and was subject to frequent flooding.

The Meadow was used as communal property for the first decade of their settlement. However, in 1645, the residents of Springfield voted to distribute the land to individuals as farm lots. The meadow was then granted to the residents of the southern end of the original downtown Springfield settlement.

It took the grantees two years to prepare their land for farming. They completed a road from Springfield into the meadows, including a small bridge over the Pewousic (also spelled Pacowsick in some early records) River. This road was eventually extended to Warehouse Point to facilitate the movement of supplies and beaver pelts between Springfield and Pynchon’s “fur-trading” warehouse. The lots were laid out, and fences were begun to keep wandering swine and cattle from damaging neighbor’s crops.

The first house in the meadows was probably not built until after 1649 as most of the lot owners already had homes in Springfield. When they were finally built, they were not close together as they were in the original lots in Springfield. The area was very much a wilderness and was easily attacked by the Indians in 1675 during King Phillip’s War. The Keep family was massacred by the Indians near the Peocousic River the following year. In 1695, the settlers on the Meadow experienced a disastrous flood. In 1703, the meadow residents successfully petitioned for permission to move their settlement out of the meadows and up onto the hill, where they built their homes close together for mutual protection from Indians and flooding. In 1709, they petitioned the Massachusetts General court to be a separate precinct within Springfield. This enabled them to have their own meetinghouse and minister.

FUR TRADE:

Fur trade prospered. For a time it was the chief business, just as farming was the chief operation. At the September 1642 General Court, Pynchon was appointed to pay according to the order for the beaver trade. A year later he was ordered to pay for his beaver trade from the time of the running of the line. (2 Rec. Mass Bay 31, 44) The only surviving account book of William Pynchon, kept by his son, contains entries of what amounted to a “country store” supplying the Springfield inhabitants with a variety of manufactured goods, largely in exchange for produce and services.

Pynchon’s company, which paid the Bay Colony 20 pounds for the trade monopoly at Springfield and Northampton, purchased during the years 1652-57 almost 10,000 beaver as well as sundry otter, muskrat, moose, and mink skins to the value of \$27,000. Good beaver pelt was worth ten shillings per pound. The price was fixed--not in sterling, but in the current value of wheat per bushel.

There is some indication that during the late 1640s, the Connecticut Valley beaver trade began to decline. In 1650 the Dutch from New Amsterdam complained to the Commissioners for the United Colonies that Pynchon had ruined the beaver trade by paying too high prices for skins. In 1654, an article published in London described Springfield as *“fitly seated for a Beaver trade with the Indians till the Merchants encreased so many, that it became little worth, by reason of their outbuying one another, which hath caused them to live upon husbandry.”*

The best agricultural land in New England was in the Connecticut Valley! Agriculture became the means of livelihood for the majority of the settlers in the valley. Cut off from Boston Bay by a hundred miles of hills and forest, to be traversed only at some peril along the old Bay Path, settlers immediately embarked on subsistence farming. The deep rich soil of the valley soon began to yield adequate crops of corn, rye, barley, wheat, and grasses. Lush meadow lands provided feed for the cattle and horses. Sheep and hogs were also brought in. In addition to furs, lumber began to float down river as a commodity for trade with the outside world, and fishing was plentiful at certain seasons of the year.



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THE FAMILY OF JOHN HARMON of SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS AFTER HIS DEATH

1661: 7 Apr: The Pyncheon Court Record has a couple entries of interest at this point: “*John Leonard being complained of for misbehaving himself on the Sabbath; playing sporting and laughing, etc. Charles Ferry and John Stewart testifie on oath that last Sabbath day they say Joseph Leonard sporting and laughing in Sermon tyme, and that he did often formerly misbehave himselfe also in the same way. Symon Beamon also swears that on Lords day ... he saw Joseph Leonard and Samuell Harmon (son of John and Elizabeth--age about 18) whip and whisk one another with a stick before the meetinghouse in sermon tyme.*”

1661: 20 June *Complaint being made against Samuell Harmon for misbehaving himself on the Sabbath. Once formerly when he was sent for, but came not with Joseph Leonard and then testimony on oath came in against him. And since, last Sabbath, in sermon tyme Joseph Warrinar and Peter Swinck Testife on oath that in the forenoone last Sabbath in sermon tyme they saw Samuell Harmon thrust and tickle Jonathan Morgan and pluckt him off his seate 3 times and squeased him and made him cry. William Morgan also testifies the same. For which Misdemeanors the said Samuel Harmon (being that he was formerly admonished) was adjudged to pay five shillings as a fine to the County.*”

1661: 29 May. John and Elizabeth’s daughter, Sarah Harmon, married Charles Ferry in Springfield. Charles was born in Canterbury, Kent, England in 1637 where his family had fled from Picardy France to escape religious persecution. Charles came to America 1660. He settled in Springfield. On his wedding day he was chosen a Selectman for the town of Springfield. The first house built east of the town street on the east side of the river was Charles Ferry’s who had purchased it from the Widow Harmon and in 1661 has a special license to build there. Sarah and Charles had ten children.

1662-63: Joseph Harmon’s place in the church was “*in ye south side at ye upper end of the Backer seate.*”

1662/3: Widow Harmon sold certain lands to Charles Ferry, husband of her eldest daughter, Sarah.

1662: 6 Nov. Widow **Elizabeth Harmon** became a grandmother for the first time. Her grandson was named John Ferry.



My research technique involves looking not only for a specific ancestor, but to work in three-generation increments. I seek for my target person, his parents and siblings, and his children and grandchildren as well as nieces and nephews. I also take a close look at the spouses of each of the above. With John and Elizabeth, I have not been able to identify parents or siblings—so my research involves each child and grandchild and their spouses—always seeking clues to who John and Elizabeth’s parents and siblings might be. In another chapter, I will look closely at the associates of our ancestors.

Two of John and Elizabeth’s children died at the age of three. Most of these questions will not apply to their daughter Elizabeth or their son Ebenezer. As I research, I ask myself several questions:

I. How long did the child remain in the specific locality his parents did?

- John John was born 1641 and remained in Springfield throughout his life. He married his step-sister, Mary Dorchester at the age of 27. They had five children who were all born in Springfield. John and his wife, Mary, died within a few days of each other in Feb 1712. John was 71.
- Samuel Samuel was born in 1643. He lived in Springfield until about Jan 1670 when he received a land grant across the river in Suffield, CT. In 1675 Samuel and Joseph Harmon were two of several persons desiring grants of land at, towards or about Stony River (Suffield) on the west side of the great river toward Windsor; and the selectmen granted to the Harmons, *"30 acres of land apiece there and six acres of wet meadow."* Samuel died unmarried in Sep 1677 in Springfield at the age of 34—although at the time of his death, he lived in Suffield.
- Sarah Sarah was born 1644. She lived in Springfield all her life. She married Charles Ferry and had ten children all born in Springfield. They purchased land from her widowed mother and lived near her. Sarah died in 1740 at the age of 96—after living 40 years as a widow.
- Joseph Joseph was born 1646. He received a land grant in Suffield at the same time as his brother, Samuel—1670. In 1675 Samuel and Joseph Harmon were two of several persons desiring grants of land at, towards or about Stony River (Suffield) on the west side of the great river toward Windsor; and the selectmen granted to the Harmons, *"30 acres of land apiece there and six acres of wet meadow."* Joseph received more land in 1683 and 1699. He married Hannah Filley and their children were mostly born in Suffield. He is credited as being one of the founding fathers of Suffield. He died there in 1729 at the age of 83. Before his death, he deeded his land to his sons.
- Mary Mary was born in 1651 in Springfield. She married her step-brother, John Dorchester in 1671. They had no (known) children. John and Mary lived in Springfield. She died in 1715 at the age of 64.
- Nathaniel Nathaniel was born in 1657. He married Mary Skinner in Suffield in 1685 and that is where their ten children were born. When his brother Samuel died, Nathaniel received an inheritance of a portion of his land grant in Suffield. When his brother, Joseph, received land in 1683, it was next to land of Nathaniel's. Nathaniel died in Suffield at the age of 59.

II. If the children moved away---who else in the ring of associates and/or family accompanied them to a new location? Prior to the twentieth century, people rarely moved in lone families.

Samuel, Joseph, and Nathaniel Harmon all went to Suffield, (called "Southfield") Connecticut or Stony Brook, as it was then called. They built the first cabin there in 1670 —just across the River from Springfield. Here they were involved extensively in the fur trading business with John Pynchon, son or William Pyncon, who was the founder of Springfield. The Harmons are credited with being among the first settlers of Suffield. It was a dense forest with very heavy timber growing upon her soil. The Stony Brook Plantation of twenty-three thousand acres was purchased for 30 pounds sterling, or less than one cent per acre in 1670 with title granted to Major John Pynchon and others (including the Harmon brothers who were his partners) by the General Court of Massachusetts. The two Harmon brothers, Joseph and Samuel settled about one mile west of High Street. The Harmon brothers had routes through the forest in all directions and collected large quantities of fur. Their sheds in Suffield being always covered with skins stretched for drying. Their land lay near the brook west of the village, and they also bought land at Warehouse Point, where they established a storage place for furs. Suffield remained a part of Hampshire Co., Massachusetts until 1749. In 1671, land grants were made to Samuel Harmon, a farmer; Nathaniel Harmon, a weaver; and Joseph Harmon, the town's first constable; and to Zerubabel Fyler and Robert Old. They accumulated property and upon the death of Samuel Harmon, his brothers, Nathaniel and Joseph became possessors of his Suffield property.

Benjamin Parsons, probably a brother to Sarah Parsons, wife of James Dorchester, also went to Suffield. The

Harmons served on a committee active in advancing the interests of the plantation. The town of Suffield was organized in 1681 and eighty proprietors were present at the town meeting to choose the municipal officers and discharge the committee who had managed the affairs of the town from the time of the grant in 1670. A board of five selectmen were elected for the new town officers. They were: Anthony Austin (who is Esther Austin's father. Esther marries Nathaniel and Mary Harmon's son, Nathaniel.), Samuel Kent, Thomas Remington, John Barber and Joseph Harmon, the constable. There were about eighty families in the place with a population of four or five hundred. The most numerous settlers in High Street were the Kings, Hanchetts, Remingtons, Grangers, Kents, Nortons, Spencers and Sikes. A road leading east from High Street connected it with Feather Street where lived the Burbanks, Hollydays, Smiths, Trumbulls, and Palmers. In South Street were the Austins, Risings and Millers. On the western road were the Harmons and Copleys, and in Crooked Lane the Taylors, Hitchcocks, and Coopers.

III. Who did the child marry?

John: Mary Dorchester, daughter of **Anthony Dorchester** and his first wife, Sarah (unknown). Anthony and Sarah came to Springfield from Windsor, CT about 1649. When Mary was only four years old, her mother passed away. Her father then married Martha Chapman Kritchwell. Martha had at least two children by her marriage to Samuel Kritchwell. Anthony and Martha had three more children. Martha died when Mary was about 17 years old. Anthony then married Elizabeth, widow of **John Harmon 1st**, about 1663. Elizabeth and John's eldest son, John, married his stepsister, Mary Dorchester, on 7 Jan 1668/69 about five years after their parents married.

Sarah: Charles Ferry. He was the son of Jean Ferret and Catherine Ladisor. Charles came to Springfield from France and England. His name first appears on Springfield records on 18 Apr 1659 when he purchased land from Joseph Crowfoot. He purchased much land in Springfield and left a sizeable estate and large family.

Joseph: Hannah Filley (Philley). She was the daughter of William Filley and Margaret Cockney. Hannah is the Aunt of Mary Skinner, who married Nathaniel Harmon. Mary's mother is Hannah's sister.

Mary: John Dorchester. John was the son of **Anthony Dorchester** and Sarah. (See note about Mary Dorchester, who was a sister to John Dorchester for information on his parents.)

Nathaniel Mary Skinner. Mary is the daughter of Joseph Skinner and Mary Filley. She is a niece to her sister-in-law, Hannah (Filley) Harmon

It is interesting to note, then that the five children of John and Elizabeth who married only introduced three new family lines: Two Dorchester siblings married two Harmons; Mary and Hannah were relatives. Charles Ferry appears to be a new line without other connections to the rest of the family.

Because Elizabeth remarried after John's death and helped raise Anthony's children, it is important that we also look at the spouses of his children who married. The two who married Elizabeth's children are not repeated here.

DORCHESTER CHILDREN:

James: Sarah Parsons. Daughter of Deacon Benjamin Parsons and Sarah Vore. Sarah's mother was from Windsor, where Anthony and his first wife originated. Sarah Parson's mother died in 1676 and the following year, Sarah married James Dorchester. James' mother died when he was less than a year old. He was raised by his step-mother, Martha Chapman Kritchwell until she died when he was 14. James Dorchester was about 15 when his father, **Anthony Dorchester**, married **Elizabeth Harmon**. He was 29 when he married Sarah Parsons. Among James and Sarah's descendants were many clergymen.

Benjamin: Sarah Burt. Benjamin Dorchester, son of Anthony and Martha (Chapman Kritchwell) was 11 when his

mother died. He was raised by **Elizabeth Harmon** after she married **Anthony Dorchester**. Benjamin married Sarah Burt, daughter of Deacon Jonathan Burt and Elizabeth Lobdell. Benjamin Dorchester died about a year following his marriage. They had one son. Sarah married again to Luke Hitchcock, son of Luke Hitchcock and Elizabeth Gibbons. Sarah and Luke had 11 children.

Sarah: Joseph Stebbins. Sarah Dorchester was about eleven years old when her mother, Martha, died. Her father, Anthony, married **Elizabeth Harmon** shortly afterwards, so Sarah was raised from that time on by Elizabeth. She married at age 19 to Joseph Stebbins was the son of Thomas Stebbins and Hannah Wright. Joseph's grandfather was Deacon Samuel Wright.

Martha Kitcherell:

Abel Wright. When **Anthony Dorchester** married his second wife, Martha Chapman Kritchwell or Kitcherell, she had a daughter, Martha, by her first husband, Samuel Kritchwell. Martha married Abel Wright in 1659. Abel and Martha Wright were close associates of the Harmon family. Presently I do not know if there is a relationship between Abel Wright and Hannah Wright's father, Deacon Samuel Wright with whom **John Harmon** shared a team of oxen.

In summary: Anthony's children all married people in the religious community of Springfield. When he was alive, **John Harmon** occupied the third seat in the meetinghouse. **Anthony Dorchester** also occupied the third seat. This is a statement of their prominence in the church and community.

IV. **What names were the grandchildren given? Why?** (Keep in mind that who they were named after is supposition.)

John & Mary (Dorchester) Harmon:a. Sarah-- for Mary's deceased mother

- b. Mary--after her mother
- c. Sarah--after the first Sarah died--for grandmother
- d. John--after his father and grandfather
- e. Elizabeth--after her grandmother

Sarah (Harmon) & Charles Ferry:

- a. John--probably after grandfather
- b. Charles--after father
- c. Samuel--possibly after Sarah's brother
- d. Sarah--after mother
- e. Mary--possibly after Sarah's sister
- f. Gershom-----
- g. Solomon-----
- h. Mercy-----
- i. Elizabeth--after grandmother
- j. Solomon--after brother who died and -----

Joseph & Hannah (Filley or Philley) Harmon:

- a. Hannah--for her mother
- b. John--for grandfather
- c. Samuel--for Joseph's brother, Samuel
- d. Elizabeth--for grandmother

- e. Joseph—for father
- f. Sarah—for Joseph's sister
- g. Samuel—1st son by this name died.
- h. Ebenezer—for Joseph's brother
- i. Mary—Joseph & Hannah both had sister, Mary
- j. Nathaniel—for Joseph's brother

Nathaniel & Mary (Skinner) Harmon:

- a. Nathaniel—for father
- b. Ebenezer—for Nathaniel's brother
- c. Mary—for mother & grandmother Skinner
- d. Elizabeth—for grandmother
- e. Ann-?????
- f. Samuel—for Nathaniel's brother
- g. Sarah—for Nathaniel's sister
- h. Ruth-?????
- i. John—for grandfather
- j. Benjamin-?????

Looking at the naming patterns and reviewing the names that **John and Elizabeth Harmon** gave their children, makes me think possible names for John's father are: Samuel, Joseph, Nathaniel, or Ebenezer. Those are also possible names for Elizabeth's father. Possible names for their mothers are Sarah and Mary. Of course, John and Elizabeth are also possibilities. The names Samuel, Sarah, and Mary appear in every family! I think it is most likely that Elizabeth and John's eldest daughter, Sarah, would name a child for her paternal or maternal grandparents. It is least likely that Nathaniel would. None of the children named a child for Elizabeth's second husband, Anthony—not even his own children! Basically, the names of the children and grandchildren were Biblical names.

Anthony's grandchildren not previously named were:

James & Sarah (Parsons) Dorchester:

- a. James (4 sons named James after father—3 died)
- b. Rebecca ?????? Could be her unknown grandmother
- c. John —James had a brother, John.
- d. Joseph— Sarah had a brother, Joseph
- e. Sarah—after her mother & grandmother
- f. Mary— Joseph & Sarah both had sisters, Mary

Benjamin & Sarah (Burt) Dorchester:

- a. Benjamin—after father

Sarah (Dorchester & Joseph Stebbins):

- a. Joseph—after father
- b. Benjamin—Sarah had brother named Benjamin
- c. Thomas—after Grandfather Stebbins
- d. John—Sarah had a brother named John

It appears to me that the most likely possibility for Anthony's father's name would be John or James. I think it unusual that none of the grandchildren were named Anthony.

V. Are there any death and/or probate records for the children who died?

Ebenezer Harmon:

1660: 7 Apr. Little Ebenezer, age three, drowned in "ye brook by ye mill stream ye 7th of ye 2 mon, 1660." This day the youngest child of John Herman, called Ebenezer, was found dead in the brook in Nathaniel Prichard's yard; concerning whose death there was a search and inquiry made by a jury of 12 men of this town of Springfield how the said child came to its end. The jurors were: Thomas Cooper, William Branch, William Warrenner, Thomas Stebbin, Thomas Noble, John Stewart, Samuel Marshfield, Henry Burt, Benjamin Parsons, Abell Wright, Richard Sikes, John Clarke---whose return upon oath before the Commissioners Elizur Holyoke and Mr. Samuel Chapin, was that according to the best light they could have in the case they judge the child to be drowned in the brooke through its own weakness without the hand of any other person being any occasion or cause thereof.

Joseph Harmon:

Joseph deeded all of his lands to his children before his death. One deed is lacking and that was to his son, Nathaniel. The deed to his son, Joseph Jr. shows that he did make a gift to his son, Nathaniel also, but there is no deed on record.

1724: Deed 432 Joseph Harmon to Joseph Jr. "*Parental Love--13 acres of home lott of upland and meadow. N-land which I have given to my son, Nathaniel; E. Old Street; S-Private highway; W. private highway crossing the brook.*"

1724: Deed 343 Joseph Harmon of Southfield to Ebenezer Harmon. "*For love and good will when he becomes of age; 8 acres being upland and meadow lying north of Muddy Brook. The upland part borders Nathaniel Harmon; meadow part bounds John Harmon; a small highway between them.*"

1726: Deed 580. Joseph Harmon to Jonathan (John) Harmon) "*Parental Love. 4 acres; N. is Ebenezer Harmon; E. a highway; S. his own house lott; W- Benjamin Gillett.*"

Nathaniel Harmon:

Probate Record, 21 May 1713, SLCFHC, Salt Lake City, Utah, 0,879,184.

"As to the settlement of the estate of Nathaniel Harmon of Suffield deceased, his inventoried estate amounts free 210.16.3 of which the widow, Mary, relict to the deceased her 3rd of land and housing is 37.13.4 for life and in moveable goods 32.7.10 for her own disposal. To the eldest son Nathaniel as his double share and although it is more just I allow it as his in as much as his father in his lifetime and his mother now living deeded the land which is at ... 15... to him and his heirs forever. The remainder of said estate is 95.15.1 is divided to the eight younger children which is to Mary daughter to the deceased 11.19.4; to Elizabeth 11.19.4; to Anne 11.19.4; to Samiel 11.19.4; to Sarah 11.19.4; to Ruth 11.19.4; to John 11.19.4 and to Benjamin 11.19.4 The ..(third?) of said widow's share of land to be equally divided; the value thereof to the said eight children: (Nathaniel exempted in this division); viz: to Mary, Elizabeth, Anne, Samuel, Sarah, Ruth, John, and Benjamin. If any of the children now under age die before they are of age to receive their said portions the survivors to enjoy their shares or portions according to law. This is approved and allowed as a settlement of estate this 21 day of May 1713. "

Samuel Partridge, Judge of Probate

(Film 0,879,184) An inventory of the Estate of Nathaniel Harmon, deceased, as it was taken and appraised by us the Subscribers on ye 10th 1712 which inventory was taken as money:

Inventory of the Estate of Nathaniel Harmon:

ITEM	L S D
Apparrell Books & Armour	4...15...5
Spectacles	....4....
A feather bed	3.....
Rugs, sheets & blankets	6...13..
A bolster & a pair of old curtains	...11...
Three bed spreads with their cords	1...9...6
Two old beds	...10...
A new bed & pillows	1...1...10
An old bolster	1...1...10
Pillow beens	....18....
Two table cloths	...13....
Two napkins	....2....
Lead, flints, bullets, moulds, Sword	...15...4
A little .....ab	....8....
A great brass kettle	3...10...
A little brass kettle	1...10...
A great pott and two pair of pott hooks	...16...
An old skillet & warming pan	....7...6
Pewter Vessels	1...8...6
An Iron enamel & frying pan	...13...
Earthen & tinn vessels with spoons	....8...
A candlestick & a pair of stillyards	....7...2
Smoothing Irons	....2...

Wooden ware viz bowls, dishes & platters	....9...6
A talbe & chairs	...15...6
Two glass bottles, two pair of curds & two pails	...10...
Weaver Loom & tackling	1...10...
Four spinning wheels	...15...
Chest & Case Saddle & furniture	1...7...6
A keeler & pork with the barrel; Lard with tub	1...4...
Soap, beer barrel, meale, Indian corn & rye	3....1...3
Cheese cloth, linsey woolsey cloth, old barrel & cheese kurds	...18...4
A sithe, sickle, baggs, knives, scizers, slice, hammerall	...17...
A beetle, wedges, hoes, axes, hay fork, bridle, bitts, collar	1.....
Ox yoke, cart & caps & plane caps, horse traces, a ring & hooks	1...1...1
Pail bails, cart bands & cart boxes, sheeps wool, sow & slaves all	3....6...2
Plow & irons, an old peck, a meal seive, Indigoe all	...13...9
Part of new sled, cow bell, lithe hacking, cheese fatts, sheep shears	...14...8
A small trunk, a looking glass two in all, cheese fatts	....5...8
An ox, two cows, two calves, one mare, sheep, swine all	16....3...
The house & 17 acres on which it stands	70.....
The meadow & other lands amounting to	63.....
The crop on ye land	3.....
TOTAL	200..11..8

By Joseph Harmon, James Younglove, Joseph Winchell

Hampshire. Sept 3rd. 1712. Mary Harmon & Nathaniel Harmon (Jr) Administrator on the estate of Nathaniel Harmon, deceased, made oath before me under written judge pf {rpbate of wills for said county that the within inventory is a

true one of the estate of deceased so farr as they can as yet come and if more estate hereafter appear, they will readily make discovery of the same from time to time.

Samuel Partridge

Debts Due from Said Estate: (Nathaniel)

John Elliot of Windsor	9...4...
Doctor Mather	2...12...7
Timothy Thrall	2...10...6
Samuel Strong	....2...6
James King	1.....
John Huxley	....4....
Nathaniel Harmon	...19...
Ebenezer Harmon	....4...
Samuel Copley	....5...

Thomas Kent	....3...
John Austin	....6...4
Mathew Copley	...1...8
David Allin	....5...4
Land Sold	20.....
A calf died, cost	1.....
2 sheep 4/each	...8...
Probates	1.....
TOTAL	40...10...5
Allowance for bringing up of Young Child	10.....

John Dorchester:

Probate of John Dorchester, husband of Mary Harmon: (film 0,879,184) John Dorchester died without children:

*Articles of Agreement made between James Dorchester of the one part and Mary (Harmon)Dorchester, the relict of John Dorchester, deceased; Benjamin Dorchester (a nephew of James –son of Benjamin); Joseph Stebbins, in the right of his wife (husband of Sarah Dorchester), and Mary Harman (who is actually Mary Dorchester Harmon–daughter of Anthony) Respecting the estate of the aforesaid Dorchester, deceased. Viz. That the aforesaid James Dorchester shall have of the estate or out of the estate of John Dorchester, deceased, the housing and all the buildings upon the East Side of Connecticut River, that is only those buildings in the town plat of Springfield upon said James' land and the fifteen acres lot over Agawam at the Point and one acre over the Mill River in said James' pasture. The aforesaid housing and land the parties aforesaid do agree shall be to the said James Dorchester and his heirs forever, saving to the Widow Mary Dorchester her third in said house and two acres of mowing land–part of it ... and some orchard and garden which land lyeth by the house. This land, the widow is to have during her life and for and upon the account of what is above the said James Dorchester for himself, his heirs, executors and acquit do honor doth ... unto the above Mary Dorchester, Benjamin Dorchester, Joseph Stebbins and Mary Harman all the surpluss or remaining estate both real and personal of said John Dorchester deceased to be to them according to each ones proportion as the law provides. But James Dorchester doth relinquish all his rights as heir and administrator unto the said Dorchester, Stebbins, and Harman saving what is allotted to him as aforesaid, and Benjamin Dorchester, Joseph Stebbins, in right of his wife, and Mary Harman do for themselves, their heirs acquit exonerate and release unto said James Dorchester all the right that they might or could claim out of the estate of their honored father, **Anthony Dorchester**, deceased. And further, the said James Dorchester doth for himself and his heirs do sell alienate and convey unto said Benjamin Dorchester and his heirs a small piece of land on the north side of said Benjamin's house lot containing one rod wide and four rods long from the street to the confirmation of the premises as the parties above have set to their hands and seal this 2 day of January in the fourth year of the reigne of Anne, Queen of England Anno Dono 1705.*

Signed and sealed in the presence of us witnesses:

*Thomas Sheldin,
Luke Hitchcock (Benjamin's step-father),
Ebenezer Pumry.*

Signed by:

*James Dorchester,
Mary Dorchester (her mark),
Benjamin Dorchester,
Joseph Stebbins,
Mary Harman (her mark)*

James Dorchester doth further say that Mary Dorchester the wife of my brother shall enjoy the 3 acres above wirtten during her life time after this year unless she and I otherwise agree. It is agreed that Mary Dorchester shall have the garden at the house; it is now agreed that the said Mary shall have but half the garden and that she shall have so much land down further in the pasture, the land aforesaid the said Mary Dorchester is to have during her natural life.

VI. If the parents lived to an old age, who did they live with?

Elizabeth lived to be about 91—the last sixteen years as a widow. It is not known who she lived with. It seems likely that it was one of her daughters, Sarah or Mary. My guess would be Mary as Sarah had a large family and Mary had no children.

VII. Who witnessed marriages, wills, baptisms, etc.? Was there a relationship?

John and Elizabeth's three-year-old son, Ebenezer, drowned in **Nathaniel Prichard's** yard.

John's will was witnessed by **John Lombard** and **Elizur Holyoke**.

Elizabeth sold land to her son-in-law, Charles Ferry, witnessed by **John Lumbard** and **John Lamb**.

Inventory of estate of Nathaniel Harmon done by: Joseph Harmon, **James Youngglove**, **Joseph Winchell**;
Administrators: Mary (Skinner) Harmon, Nathaniel Harmon (Jr.) [Joseph Harmon was Nathaniel's brother; Joseph Winchell was father-in-law to Nathaniel's son, Samuel]

Articles of Agreement on estate of John Dorchester witnessed by: **Thomas Sheldin**, **Luke Hitchcock** (Benjamin Dorchester's step-father), **Ebenezer Pumry**



Here is a view of the Suffield, CT cemetery where a monument was erected in honor of the Harmon Brothers who were the first settlers. John Harmon's name is on the large monument in center. (See it in an earlier chapter:)



ANTHONY DORCHESTER SECOND HUSBAND OF JOHN'S WIDOW, ELIZABETH HARMON

LAND GRANTS:

Land Grants from Springfield Town Records: The person making the abstracts was not always clear about dates. I have placed these in chronological order as near as possible. When there is an obvious discrepancy, I make note of it.

1651: Jan 9 - 22. By the Selectmen, Mr. Henry Smith also concurring with them according to Order in ye Distribution of Land, Jan 9th and Jan 22, 1651. There is granted to **Anthony Dorchester** a parcel of planting land over ye Great River at ye Lower end of Chicobee Plain on the side of ye 60 acres for ye Ministry, adjoining ye Brook, of about 8 acres, which he is to get measured and record ye Quantity be it more or less. (1st Bk pg. 106)

1651. Jan. *There was Granted to **Anthony Dorchester** four acres of meadow more or less, on Pacowsuck Brook, bounded west by Benja Cooley, east by Widow Margaret Bliss.*

1652. Jan 5. *Also **Anthony Dorchester** hath bought of Reice Bedortha a Home lot four acres more or less, breadth 8 rod length 80 rod extending from ye street fence to ye Great River. Also in ye Same line westward six acres of Wet Meadow and Wood Land. Breadth 8 rod; length extending east from ye street to make up ye number of acres, bounded North by that which was Griffith Jones (being now **Anthony Dorchesters** as above said) south by Benjamin Cooley. These parcels of land are of Reice Bedortha fully and absolutely sold and past over to **Anthony Dorchester** this 5 Jan 1652. John Pynchon Recorder.*

1656: Feb 13. At a meeting of the Selectmen. *Likewise there was granted unto **Anthony Dorchester** 10 acres of upland on the Southwest Side of Chickobee Plain, beginning at the Little Spring and so to run South east till it make up 10 acres, provided he Continue in Town 5 years. (Page 132)*

1656: May 30. *Also by purchase from John Mathews of six acres wet meadow and wood land lying before ye town platt, betwixt **Anthony Dorchester**'s Wet Meadow and Wood Lot above said Jonathan Taylors; Anthony lying on ye south side of it; Jonathan Taylor north. (This six acres of John Mathews to James Dorchester & his Heirs.)*

*Also by purchase from James Osborn of half an acre of land more or less lying on ye East side of ye street fro; ye Street East to ye Brook, breadth 8 rod, bounded north by Thomas Sewall; south by Jonathan Taylor. Together with four acres of Wet meadow (in ye same line east) more or less, with a wood lot of eight acres more or less, breadth 8 rod, length extending from the street eastward to make up ye number of acres, bounded by **Anthony Dorchester**'s own land aforesaid. (This ½ acre to James Dorchester and ye 4 acres of Meadow of Osborn and 8 acres Woodland of Osborn to James Dorchester. Together with four acres on ye west side of ye Great River in ye neck, breadth 8 rod, Length from ye highway by ye Great River in ye neck, Breadth 8 rod, length from ye highway by ye Great River Side westward 80 rod, bounded north by James Bridgeman now Sam. Marshfield, south by John Mathews.*

Also adjoining on ye North side of this four acres at ye West end in ye swamp by Agawam River of two acres more or less, breadth 8 rod, length 40, bounded north by Jonathan Bridgman now Sam Marshfield) All these parcels of land were registered May 30, 1656. Note—In the margin against the preceding grants is the

*following: Two acres of this four acres by **Anthony Dorchester** sold and fully passed away to Abel Wright his heirs and assigns forever, January 5th 1662 and Returned again to **Anthony Dorchester**, Nov. 13, 1665 & the 6 acres in the Neck of Osborn to James Dorchester and his Heirs.*

1657. Jan 13. *Also by purchase from John Lumbar to **Anthony Dorchester** is possessed of one acre more or less, adjoining to Anthony's homelot above, bounded by Jonathan Taylor north. Registered January 13, 1657. (This one acre to James Dorchester.)*

1657. Jan 25. *Granted to **Anthony Dorchester** what land is yet undisposed of in the further Meadow over Agawam to ye quantity of 2 or 3 acres Lying at the South End of his own between the Land of John Leonard bought of Sam Marshfield and the upland.*

Anthony Dorchester *is possessed of a House Lot by purchase from Griffith Jones, viz four acres more or less, breadth 8 rod length 80 rod; bounded North by Jonathan Taylor, South by Reice Bedortha. (3rd bk p. 41) Also a woodlot & wet meadow of six acres more or less. Breadth 8 rod; length extending from the Brook east 120 rod bounded North by John Matthews, south by Reice Bedortha.*

*The house lot and wet meadow and wood lot to James Dorchester. More bought of Hugh Parsons over the River in the Neck Two acres more or Less. Breadth 8 rod. Length extending from the River west 80 rod, bounded North by John Matthews, South by John Lumbar. This two acres is by **Anthony Dorchester** sold and passed away to John Lumbar, his heirs and assigns forever, this 25th of January 1657..*

Also bought of Nathaniel Bliss over Agawam River in the 2nd Division five acres more or less. Breadth 10 rod, Length 80 rod from ye way by the Great River west, bounded north by a 3-corner piece lying next to Agawam River, south by George Langton.

*Also said **Anthony Dorchester** bought five acres of Benjamin Parsons south of the above said five acres. (Both these five acre lots descended to John Dorchester by the Courts Settlement of his father Dorchester's estate.)*

1658. Jun 2. *Also by purchase from John Mathews of four acres more or less in the neck over the Great River breadth 8 rod length from ye Highway by ye Great River side westward to Agawam River 80 rod bounded by Jonathan Burt south.*

(This four acres in the neck of Matthews to James Dorchester and his heirs.) Also by purchase from Sam. Wright of Seven acres of land over Agawam River lying at ye rear of Mr. Smith's meadow lott breadth 14 rod, Length 80 rod, bounded by Thomas Merick west by John Clarke East.

1658. Aug 9. *Also thereas Granted a parcel of (planting ground in) ye lower end of ye Chickabee Playne over ye Great River, Lying 3-cornerwise, bounded by ye Brook South by ye Town 30 acres North. This seven acres is by **Anthony Dorchester** sold and fully passed away to Jonathan Taylor and his assigns forever.*

*Also of two acres more or less of meadow upon ye North branch of ye Mill River, bounded by Sam. Chapin Southward down ye River by Reice Bedortha northward up ye River. (This two acres is descended to James Dorchester upon settlement of his father's estate.) All these several parcels of land are by Jonathan Taylor sold and fully passed away to **Anthony Dorchester**, his heirs and assigns forever, and registered to **Anthony Dorchester** this 9th of August 1658.*

1659. Jan 20. *Also **Anthony Dorchester** hath purchased from Wm Brooks nine acres of land over Agawam River lying at ye rear of Mr. Smith and Deacon Wright's Meadow land, being 18 rod broad and so running southward 80 rod in length, bounded by Thos. Stebbins west, Thos. Mirick East. Registered. Jan 20th 1659.*

1660. Feb 12. *Furthermore, There is granted by ye Selectmen to **Anthony Dorchester** 10 acres of land on ye back side of Chickobee Plains on the West Side of ye Great River, which land is to lye at or near ye backer end of certain lots which were his own in that plain. This 10 acres is said formerly granted to him which grant is now renewed. (1st Bk. P. 199)*

1661. Jan 4. *Also by purchase from Abel Wright of an acre and a half of meadow ground more or less lying over Agawam River breadth is 3 rod & 1/4; length 80 rod, bounded north west by said Anthony, his own land bought of James Osborn and also by his own land, bought of Abel Wright which was Benjamin Muns on the South East.*

*Also by purchase from Abel Wright of three acres more or less of meadow, lying over Agawam River, breadth 6 rod, length 80 rod bounded by John Leonard south east and **Anthony Dorchester**, his own land on ye northwest.*

1661. Jan. 14. *There is granted to **Anthony Dorchester** ten acres of land on ye back side of Chickobee Playne on the west side of ye Great River. This ten acres is by **Anthony Dorchester** sold and fully passed away to Riece Bedortha, his heirs and assigns forever. **Anthony Dorchester** is by purchase from Riece Bedortha possessed of five acres of upland on ye west side of ye Great River & below Agawam River in breadth 10 rod, in length extending from ye Great River 80 rod westward bounded north by ye lott that was Griffith Jones, south by ye lot what was Benja. Cooleys. (John Dorchester having the five acres mentioned descending to him hath sold the same to James Sikes.)*

1661. Jun 4. **Anthony Dorchester** is by Purchase from James Osborn possessed of Two acres of Meadow with the addition be it more or less, lying over Agawam River, breadth 6 rod and 1/4; length 80 rod, bounded south east by Anthony his own land which was John Harmons, northwest by Anthony, his own land bought of Samll Wright. Registered June 4th 1661.

1668. Feb 8. *At a meeting of the Selectmen. **Anthony Dorchester** having a Parcel of land granted him in Chickobee Playne on ye west side of ye Great River at ye back end or west end of that land sometimes called Miles Mur(g)wins Lot, which grant was many years since and he hath possessed it and improved it several years and yet the record of it through some neglect is not to be found. The said land is now confirmed to him, viz, Six or seven acres, Robert Ashley, his land lying on the North side of it and Miles Morgans land on the South. (2nd Bk. Pg. 63)*

1668. Dec 28. **Anthony Dorchester** is possessed by purchase from Jonathan Taylor of a House Lot containing seven acres more or less, the breadth at ye front next ye street is 8 rod and at 20 rod end it is 16 rod in breadth; ye length 80 rod from ye Street westward to ye Great River, bounded South by **Anthony Dorchester**'s own land, North by Mr. Holyoke which was John Mathews. (3rd Bk pg. 40)

*Also of Two acres of wet meadow more or less opposite to this land at ye east end of it, with a wood lot of four acres, at ye east end of ye wet meadow. Breadth 8 rod, Length 80 rod from ye wet meadow westward, bounded north by Benj. Parsons, South by **Anthony Dorchester**, which he bought of James Osborn. (The house lot and 2 acre meadow and 4 acre wood lot to James Dorchester.)*

*Also of five acres in Longmeadow in ye upper field more or less breadth 11 rod and ½ length extending from ye east fence till ye said five acres be up (ye other part of ye lot being Wm. Branch and by him sold to George Colton), bounded North by Widow Bliss, South by Geo. Colton. This five acres is by **Anthony Dorchester** sold and fully passed away to John Bliss & to his heirs and assigns forever.*

1669. Jan 14. *At a meeting of the Selectmen. Granted to **Anthony Dorchester** about ten acres of swamp and low land lying beyond Agawam River where his Wet Meadow is betwixt the Hills against his wet meadow there. (2nd Bk. Pg. 75)*
1672. Aug 20. *At a meeting of the Selectmen all being present. Granted **Anthony Dorchester** 20 acres of Land of and about ye Dingle against his Land at Cowsuck Brook. (2nd Bk. Pg. 99/100)*
1682. Apr 27. ***Anthony Dorchester** is possessed by grant of the plantation of 4 acres of land that lyeth on the west side of his wet meadow that lyeth on the Northerly Branch of the 3 Mile Brook, this 4 acres lyeth on the west side of and adjoyneth to the meadow that the said **Anthony Dorchester** is now possessed of, it begineth at the South corner of his meadow, and so taketh in a small triangle of land which lyeth between the west side of the meadow and so runs up to a small brook. (3rd Bk; pg. 50)*

Anthony Dorchester is by Grant of the Plantation possessed of 20 acres more or less of land upland swampy low land on the North side of Pecowsuck, length 100 rod, Breadth 32 rod and bounded easterly by a white oak marked by his own meadow southerly and westerly and northerly by common land. Registered 27 Apr 1682.



ANTHONY DORCHESTER & ELIZABETH HARMON DORCHESTER TIME LINE:

I have not been successful in discovering when Anthony emigrated. In *Pioneers of Massachusetts*, Pope states that Anthony was from Windsor when he removed to Springfield abt 1649 as his first wife, Sarah, is reported to have died in Springfield 9 Nov 1649. Anthony received a land grant by 1651. He was a prominent citizen, active church member, a land owner, and a town officer in Springfield.

Anthony's first wife was Sarah (surname unknown) and by her he had three children:

John Dorchester, born 5 Nov 1644 at Windsor, Hartford, CT
Mary Dorchester b. abt. 1645
James Dorchester b. 1648

Sarah, his wife, died 9 Nov 1649, at Springfield, leaving Anthony with three little children ages 1, 4, and 5. The History of Springfield states that "**Anthony Dorchester and his wife, Sarah, came to Springfield from Windsor and brought three children: John, James, and Mary. Wife died in Springfield 9 Nov 1649.**"

1651. It is probable that it was Anthony and Sarah who lived with the Hugh Parson family just prior to the big witchcraft scare in Springfield. It was probably during that time and that Mrs. Parsons "helped" Mrs. Dorchester because Sarah was ill. Is there a relationship between Anthony or Sarah and Hugh or Mary Parsons? High possibility. **Anthony Dorchester**, who with his wife, resided with the Hugh Parsons family, testified in Hugh's witchcraft trial early in 1651, that Parsons "*never feared either to grieve or displease his wife any time.*" Dorchester declared that "*I saw nothing Parsons did to comfort his wife, but he did often blame her that she did not throw corn.*" Also Hugh was angry because Mary helped Mrs. Dorchester without bringing any profit in for him. Parson's mistreatment of his wife went beyond requiring her to work in the fields while pregnant. He had many misdeeds and anti-social behaviors towards his neighbors. Meat mysteriously disappeared from **Anthony Dorchester's** kettle. Witnesses gave their testimonies between Feb 27, 1651 and April 7. The testimonies included such happenings as: Hannah Lankton found the pudding cut from end to end several times when she took it from the bag; Thomas Miller joked Parsons about the pudding

and soon after that Miller cut his leg; Blanche Bedortha, after an argument with Parsons, began having cutting pains; after having trouble with Mr. Moxon about some bricks Parsons was to have made, Moxon's children began to have fits. Strange stories of bewitched cows, a tongue disappearing from a boiling kettle; etc. Jonathan Taylor and **Anthony Dorchester** were among the witnesses called.

On March 4, 1651, the youngest child of the Parsons, little Joshua, died. It is suspected that the 2nd infant's death drove Mary out of her mind. She accused Hugh of witchcraft and murder. She was "*obviously a mental case and concentrated upon spreading reports that her husband was a witch.*" When Hugh received the news of the death of his baby, he showed no sorrow or natural grief. Hugh was also accused by another woman in town who was convinced that Hugh put a spell on her. Many people testified at his trial of unpleasant things that happened to people or to their possessions when Hugh threatened "to get even" with them. Hugh was taken chains in custody, and was sent to Boston for trial. Hugh was found guilty of witchcraft and sentenced to prison. Later, Mary confessed to killing her infant child and was sentenced to death by hanging, but died prior to the sentence being carried out.

It must have been a relief for **Anthony Dorchester** to be out of that home. It was in January 1651, that Anthony received his first land grants in Springfield. He also remarried this year.

Anthony married widow Martha Kritchwell 2 Jan 1651. Martha had a young daughter named Martha. She was probably about ten years old at the time of her Mother's marriage to Anthony. Martha also had a son, Samuel, who died soon after her marriage to Anthony and was buried 9 (4) 1651 (9 June). Martha's first husband, Samuel Kritchwell, was from Hartford. Martha bore three children in Springfield to **Anthony Dorchester**, namely:

Benjamin Dorchester born 1651

Sarah Dorchester born 12 Nov 1653

Hester Dorchester born 1656

Martha and her youngest daughter, Hester, both died in 1662. At this time, Anthony was left with five children still at home: John, age 18, Mary age 17, James age 14, Benjamin age 11, and Sarah age 9. His step-daughter, Martha, had married Abel Wright on 1 Dec 1659.

1653. Jonathan Taylor and **Anthony Dorchester** were charged for not being present on Lecture day, 9 Feb 1653. Jonathan plead his inability of body at that time and was freed from service that day. **Anthony Dorchester** was fined for being absent.

Anthony Dorchester leased John Pynchon's corn and saw mills for L13 annually. He only held the corn mill for one year, 1653.

1660-1662. **Anthony Dorchester** was a laborer of Springfield who performed many services for John Pynchon. He was a freeman of the Bay Colony. He was paid for carrying horses over (the River) for the Ausatin voyage: a journey to Ausatinnoag between 22 Mar 1660/61 and 29 Dec 1662.

Anthony's second wife, Martha, died in 1662. (See previous note.)

1663. About 1663, **Anthony Dorchester** married the Widow, **Elizabeth Harmon**, in Springfield. They had eleven children from previous marriages between them; plus Martha Kritchwell Wright, the daughter of Anthony's second wife by her previous marriage. Only Martha was married by this time.

1664: Dec. Upon the request of **Anthony Dorchester**, there was granted by the town of Springfield to his own and to

his wife's sons thirty acres of land each:

To John Dorchester thirty acres.

To James Dorchester thirty acres.

To John Harman thirty acres.

To Samuel Harman thirty acres

To Joseph Harman thirty acres.

(Note: On the margin against the above is: "*These 5 persons doe relinquish their right in this land resigning it up again into ye hands of ye Towne Jan. 1665.*")

To Charles Ferry five & twenty acres.

To Jonathan Burt five & twenty acres.

To Jon Lumbard five & twenty acres.

(Note: On the margin against Burt and Lombard is: "*These 2 persons resigne up their grants Jan. 1665.*")

To Thomas Bancroft thirty acres.

To Benjamin Parsons, forty acres--*resigned for land at Skeepmuck.*

1664. September . **Anthony Dorchester** & Rice Bedortha surveyors of ye high ways for Springfield were presented to this courte for neglecting their work in the Season allotted by their Town Order whereby the ways were very bad and dangerous; therefore they are by this Courte fined 5s. Peese.

1666. **Anthony Dorchester** was Springfield's constable. He was fined by the general court for failing to collect and turn in the taxes on time.

1668. 8 Jan. Elizabeth's little grandson, Samuel Ferry, just over two months old died. He was the son of her daughter Sarah and Charles Ferry.

1668/69: 7 Jan. Elizabeth's son, John Harmon, married her step-daughter, Mary Dorchester, in Springfield. John was about 27 at the time of his marriage; Mary was abt 23. Mary was the daughter of **Anthony Dorchester** and his first wife, Sarah. They had five children.

1668: 11 Jan "*To Samuel and Joseph Harmon for killing 6 wolves this summer past 3 pounds.*

1669. 14 Oct. **Anthony Dorchester's** first grandchild was born. Sarah Harmon, daughter of his daughter, Mary and Elizabeth's son, John, was this child. She died at the age of 4.

1669. Anthony leased Pyncheon's corn mill again, this time for a rental payment of L18. He held this lease until 1672 and possibly after that. He also leased oxen and 5 acres of land. He lost the oxen to John Pyncheon for debts. In 1673, he leased the saw mill. Performed extensive tasks as teamster and laborer; carried corn, brought up goods from the foot of the falls; sawed, ferried, scoured the ditch, etc.

At a meeting of selectmen, youthful indiscretions inside the Church meetinghouse was discussed. Miles Morgan and Jonathan Burt were ordered to sit in ye Gallery to give check to the disorders in youth and young men in tyme of Gods worship. **Anthony Dorchester** is to sit in ye Guard Seate for ye like end.

1670: Samuel and Joseph Harmon were required to furnish one load as their part of the minister's wood.

1670: 14 Jan. The settlement of Suffield, CT was begun by the grants of land to Samuel and Joseph Harmon, Benjamin Parsons and others. Suffield was at first known as Stony Brook (1660), then as Southfield (1670)

and later by Suffield (1674). In 1670, Captain John Pynchon, Lieutenant Cooper, Quartermaster Colton, Ensign Cooley, and Rowland Thomas constituted the committee chosen to lay out the site of Suffield for settlement. Several residents of Springfield received lands in Suffield for payment for their services in organizing the new plantation.

1670: Dec *"To Samuel & Joseph Harmon for killing 4 wolves 2 pounds."*

1672. 20 Apr. Elizabeth's daughter, Mary Harmon, married her step-brother, John Dorchester, son of Anthony and Sarah. Mary was 20 years old; John was 27 at the time of their marriage. They had no known children.

1673. 22 Jan. Elizabeth's son, Joseph Harmon, married Hannah Philly/Filley. She was the daughter of William and Margaret (Cockney) Filley. Joseph was 27 and Hannah was 20. They had ten children.

1673. 27 Jan. Anthony's daughter, Sarah, married Joseph Stebbins, son of Thomas and Hannah (Wright) Stebbins. Sarah was 20 and Joseph was 21. They had four children.

1673. 13 Nov. Little four-year old Sarah Harmon, a shared granddaughter of Anthony and Elizabeth, died. She was the daughter of John and Mary (Dorchester) Harmon.

1673. Nathaniel Prichard made a complaint against Obediah Cooley saying that his dog and Goodman Dorchester's dog had killed a sheep. Dorchester promptly hanged his dog, but Cooley refused to do so until ordered by the court. Witnesses were Nathaniel Prichard and James Stevenson.

1674. Mar. **Anthony Dorchester** was authorized to keep a ferry on the Connecticut, below the Agawam River, and to make these charges: *"horse and man, 8d.; foot passengers, 2d.; troops of training days, 3d."*

1674: 27 Apr. A court complaint against Charles Ferry is quite interesting--mostly because it gives a clue to the occupation and personality of Charles Ferry and perhaps where Nathaniel, my ancestor, learned his trade of weaver: *"David Morgan, Plaintiffe, against Charles Ferry for not weaving linnen yarn into cloth according to agreement; David affirming that Charles engaged to pay him for work in building Charles a shop; thirty shillings in weaving cloth which now Charles refused to do; being to the Plaintiff damage 40 s. The testimonies in the case produced being sworn are on file. I find for the Plaintiffe that Charles Ferry make good the thirty shillings in weaving or otherwise pay him thirty shillings in current pay; together with costs of court 3s6d."*

1675. 22 April. Anthony's son, Benjamin Dorchester, married Sarah Burt, dau of Deacon Jonathan and Elizabeth (Lobdell) Burt. Benjamin was 24; Sarah was 20. They had one son. Benjamin died in 1676.

1675/6: July. Danger came to the Connecticut Valley in the form of King Phillip's War. He and his Wampanoag warriors were a formidable foe. No longer were their weapons only tomahawks, arrows, and knives. They had *"white man's weapons"* of firearms, powder and ball which they had learned to use very effectively.

The Indians attacked the river settlements of Northfield, Deerfield and Hadley. Settlers were cut down in their houses and meadows, their cattle slaughtered and grain burned. As September rolled around each day brought more ominous tidings. Finally came *"the saddest day that ever befell New England,"* with the massacre of one hundred soldiers and over twenty ox cart drivers at Bloody Brook just south of Deerfield.

Bands of Indians began to work their way southward. In Northampton houses and barns were burned; farmers

gathering crops were fired upon and killed. The city of Springfield was burned. Even the Agawam Indians who had long been the staunchest friends of the settlers succumbed to the persuasion of King Philip and allowed some three hundred of his warriors into their Long Hill fort. In order to involve the Mohawks in his crusade against the English, Philip caused a number of his own braves to be killed and then accused the English of their murder. The plan backfired when one of the victims revived and returned to his people and told the story of what happened.

The Mohawk tribe then turned on Philip and defeated him and drove his tribe from the valley. Some of the Agawams lingered on, but they no longer caused the settlers any problems. The war was over on 11 Aug 1676. But what a terrifying time it must have been for our family! Several Springfield residents were killed in the battle.

- 1676: Samuel and Joseph Harmon were two of several persons desiring grants of land at, towards, or about Stony River on the west side of the great river toward Windsor; and the selectmen granted to the Harmons "30 acres of land apiece there and six acres of wet meadow." In the Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford Co., Connecticut pg. 993 is a history of John's son, Nathaniel: "*He (Nathaniel) and his brother, Joseph became interested in trading with the Indians, and for many years were the principal partners of that noted trader, Col (John) Pynchon, the original proprietor of the site of Springfield. They had routes through the forest in all directions, and collected large quantities of fur, their sheds in Suffield always being covered with skins stretched for drying. Their land lay near the brook west of the village, and they also bought land at Warehouse Point, where they established a storage place for furs.*"
1676. Anthony's son, Benjamin died about this time—probably a victim of King Phillip's War. He left a widow, Sarah, and an infant son, Benjamin.
1677. 1 Mar. Anthony's son, James Dorchester, married Sarah Parsons, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Vore) Parsons. James was 29; Sarah was 21. They had 9 children.
- 1677: 7 Sep. Samuel Harmon, son of John and Elizabeth, died. He was unmarried.
1679. 18 Jul. A three-month old grandson, child of Joseph and Hannah (Filley) Harmon, whose name was Samuel, died this day.
- 1681: 15 Apr. "*Widow Margarite Bliss and Samuell Bliss Senior, Guardians to Samuel Bliss: Samuel Bliss, the son of Lawrence Bliss, being brought before me by his father-in-law (meaning current husband of his mother), John Norton, for disorderly going from him. It appearing that he was not settled with him and that at his coming to him from **Goodman Dorchester (Anthony)**. He was to be at liberty to go away when it should be judged meete and John Norton not insisting upon his continuance with him longer. The lad is left to the care and disposute of his Guardians; and he being about 18 years of age hath made choice of and doth here publically declare his choice of his Grandmother Widow Margarite Bliss and his Uncle Samuel Bliss to be his guardians who appearing also and accepting thereof are accordingly allowed and declared the guardians of Samuel Bliss, the son of Lawrence Bliss, who are to take care to dispose of and settle the lad in some good honest service or trade. Some debate being about the new clothes bought him by Goodman Norton. It is determined and agreed to that the lad shall have all his clothes. Only that his hat bought of Bracy Goodman Norton shall be paid for and have 20s more allowe to him out of that 40s which Goodman Norton is to allow him for the mare.*" My question: Where does **Anthony Dorchester** fit into this picture. Is Samuel Bliss a relative? Are the Nortons relatives? Is Widow Bliss a relative?
- 1681: "*A Negro who says his name is Jack, being sent for and examined saith that he came from Wethersfield and*

*is run away from Mr. Samuel Wolcot because he always beats him sometimes with 100 blows so that he hath told his Master that he would sometime or other hang himself. He says he ran away from him one week and a half since. He says he stole a gun at the next towne viz Springfield and hath left it in the woods. He laid it down in a path because it had noe flint in it. **Anthony Dorchester** saith that today about noon this Negro came to his house and after asking for a pipe of tobacco which I told him there was some on the table, he took my knife and cut some and then put it in his pocket; and after that took down a cutlass and offered to draw it; but it coming out stiff, I closed in upon him and so bound him with the help of **my wife (Elizabeth) and daughter**. When scrambling in his pocket I suspected me might have a knife and searching him found my knife naked in his pocket which he would fain have got out but I prevented him and took it away; I committed the said Negro to prison there to remain and be safely secure till discharged by Authority."*

1683. 16 Feb. A grandson, Solomon Ferry, age 6 years, died.

1683: 30 Apr. Nathaniel Horton came before Pynchon presenting a paper for his choice of Samuel Marshfield and Charles Ferry for his guardians.

1683: 28 Aug Death of **Anthony Dorchester**. Anthony was survived by his wife, Elizabeth, to whom he had been married about twenty years; his sons, John Dorchester and James Dorchester; and his daughters Mary Dorchester Harmon and Sarah Dorchester Stebbins; and a step-daughter, Martha Kritchwell Wright. He was preceded in death by two wives, Sarah who died in 1649; Martha who died in 1662; and three children: Benjamin died in 1675; Hester died in 1662; and a step-son, Samuel Kritchwell who died in 1651.

Inventory of Anthony's estate was presented in 1683 by his son, John. An agreement was made between sons John and James; grandchildren: Benjamin; daughter, Mary, wife of John Harmon; daughter Sarah, wife of Joseph Stebbins; and his step-daughter Martha, who was the daughter of his second wife, Martha Kitchell and married to Abel Wright--who claimed something for what her mother, the widow of Samuel Kitchell (Kitcherell) once of Hartford, brought to the late **Anthony Dorchester**.

1684: 13 Oct. Charles Ferry (married to Elizabeth's dau, Sarah Harmon) plaintiff against John Dorchester (married to Elizabeth's dau, Mary Harmon): *"According to summons for that said Dorchester took away a load of Charles Ferry's hay which is to his damage as shall be made appear. Charles Ferry says he mowed and made the hay and set it by Agawam River side on his own land as per testimonies of John and Charles Ferry; John Dorchester says I know no hay of Charles Ferrys that I fetched away and can own no such thing. I carried away hay of my own and none but what I took for my own. I own fetching hay of my own and none but what was my own. Charles Ferry's proof falling short, I find for the Defendant. Costs of court viz entry 8s; summons 3s. John Dorchester after Charles was gone, demanded 2s costs."*

1684: *"Charles Ferry, Plaintiff, against John Dorchester, Defendant, on review of the case about a load of hay which John Dorchester took from Agawam River side in September last which Charles Ferry challenges and is said to his said Ferry's damage as he shall make appear. Charles Ferry says, "That hay was mine. I mowed it and made it upon my own land as per the testimonies on file." John Dorchester says that the land was accepted Charles Ferry as buying it of **Widow Harmon**, (Elizabeth) but Charles Ferry sold it to my father (**Anthony Dorchester**) 16 years ago and we have had it in possession ever since without molestation till now and therefore land and hay is mine. Putting it to Goodman Ferry why he let them enjoy it 16 years, he, the said Charles, said He did not know who improved the land or who had it and produced a deed that he bought the land of Widow Harmon. To which John Dorchester replied that that might well be and afterward he might sell it to his father, and did so; and hath owned it. That he Let my father have it; The hay Goodman Ferry's two sons that made it say it was as they guessed a good load and John says it was 24 cocks. John Dorchester owns it to be about 14 or 15 cocks and was course hay. Upon the pleas and evidences in the case, I find for the Plaintiff, Charles Ferry. In case the land be his on which the hay was made and do so appear then I find for the plaintiff 15 cocks of hay or 15s and costs of court. In case the land be John*

Dorchesters then I find for the defendant costs of court 3s 6d. After judgment declared as above each party agreed about the Title of the Land as follows: The land being about an acre: Though John Dorchester says his father bought it of Charles Ferry, yet not producing any deed and Charles Ferry saying he knows not that ever he sold it, John Dorchester relinquishes all his future right to the land and allows Charles Ferry for mowing and making the hay ten shillings; and Charles Ferry is to bear and allow all costs of court and to this agreement each party are consenting and desired this record to be made accordingly as a final issue of all matters concerning the hay and land; and agreed that it should so stand on record under my hand. John Pynchon, Assistant.

1685: Action against Charles Ferry for defaming Benjamin Knowlton's wife by false reports, etc. Had to publically make amends and apologize.

1685: May 2. An acquittance of John Harmon (Jr.)--husband of Mary Dorchester, to her brothers, John and James Dorchester stating that he had already received the forty pounds due him upon the death of **Anthony Dorchester** who died intestate:

*These gentlemen testify by oath that whereas **Anthony Dorchester**, deceased [died intestate] under which consideration the ... Corte [held in Springfield the 3rd of September Anno Dom 1684] made a distribution of the estate of the deceased **Anthony Dorchester** [awarding to his surviving children] according to law, and made his two sons, John Dorchester and James Dorchester administrators of the said estate of which estate the said Corte gave to me, John Harmon of Springfield and son-in-law to the said Dorchester deceased] forty pounds, which forty pounds I have already received of John and James Dorchester to my full satisfaction; therefore, I, John Harmon, do by these presents for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns acquit and forever discharge the said John and James Dorchester, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of all legacies, or ... due to me or my ... from the said estate. Witness my hand.*

John Herman X (his mark)

In the presence of us:

John Richards

Thomas Vigers (his mark)

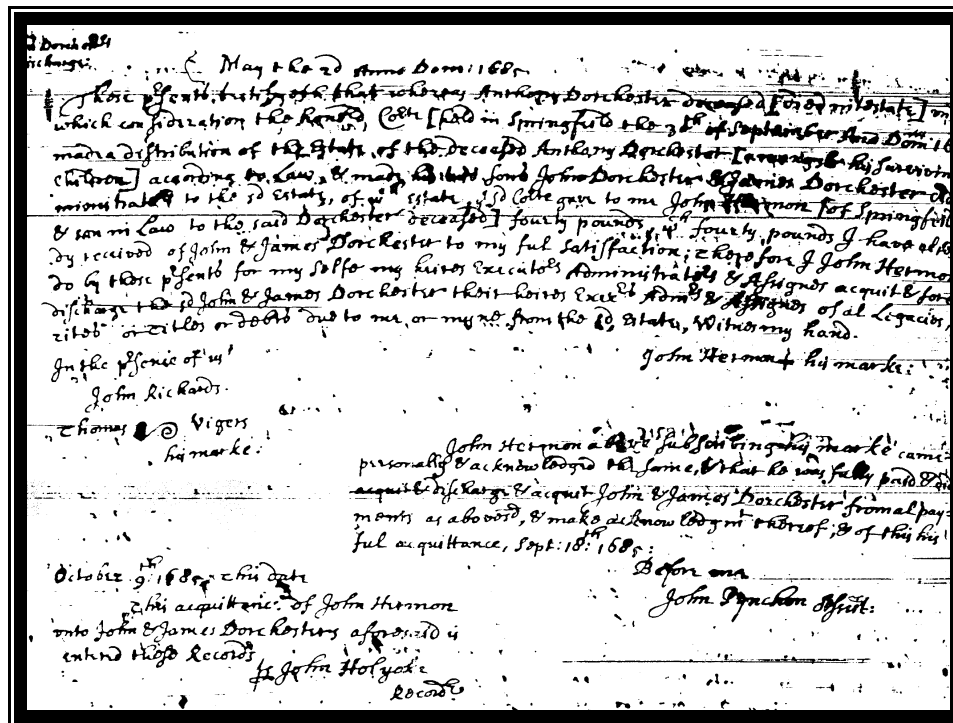
John Herman above subscribing his mark came personally and acknowledged the same that he was fully paid and did discharge and acquit John and James Dorchester formal payments as above said and make acknowledgment whereof and of this, his full acquittance, Sept. 18th, 1685.

Before John Pynchon

The above acquittance entered into the records on October 9, 1685 by John Holyoke.

Film 844,486 pg. 56AB

Acquittance of John Harmon (Jr.) and Mary Dorchester Harmon at death of **Anthony Dorchester**, her father.



1685. 19 Nov. Elizabeth's son, Nathaniel Harmon, married Mary Skinner, daughter of Joseph and Mary (Filley) Skinner. Nathaniel was 32 and Mary was 18. Their first child was born two months following their marriage. They had ten children.
1689. 11 Jul. A three-and-a-half month old grandson, named Ebenezer Harmon, son of Nathaniel and Mary (Skinner) Harmon died.
1689. 25 Jul. A granddaughter, Sarah Ferry, age 21, died. She was recently married to John Warner. Probably died in child birth.
1693. 4 Feb. A little granddaughter, Mary Harmon, less than two years old, died. Mary was the daughter of Joseph and Hannah (Filley) Harmon.
- 1699: 16 May. Death of **Elizabeth Harmon Dorchester** at Springfield. **Elizabeth Harmon Dorchester** spent the last sixteen years of her life as a widow. Where did she live? She had two married daughters in Springfield—Mary with no children and Sarah with a large family. Her son, John, also lived in Springfield; while Joseph and Nathaniel were across the river in Suffield. Some records claim Elizabeth was ninety-one years at the time of her death. Elizabeth was preceded in death by two husbands, **John Harmon** to whom she had been married about 21 years and **Anthony Dorchester** to whom she was also married about 20 years. She was the mother of eight children; three of whom—Samuel, Ebenezer, and Elizabeth—preceded her in death. Elizabeth was survived by sons, John, Joseph, and Nathaniel; and daughters Sarah Ferry and Mary Dorchester. Elizabeth had 35 grandchildren—five of whom were born following her death to her son, Nathaniel. Seven grandchildren preceded Elizabeth in death. At the time of her death, she had 23 living grandchildren. Her

oldest living grandchild was 37 and the youngest was two. Nathaniel had five more children after his mother's death—one just three months later and his last child in 1711. At the time of Elizabeth's death, only five of her living grandchildren were known to be married. Because some of my information is incomplete, I do not know how many great-grandchildren she had at the time of her death.

Elizabeth's son-in-law, Charles Ferry, died only 1½ months after she did. Her daughter, Sarah, lived as a widow for 41 years—the longest living of John and Elizabeth's children—age 96 years. The ages of her other children at their deaths were: John 71; Samuel 34; Joseph 83; Elizabeth 3; Mary 64; Nathaniel 59; and Ebenezer 3.



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ELIZABETH

John Harmon died in 1661. He left a legacy that was carried on by word of mouth and in the character of his descendants. Because there can't be a family without a mother, part of my work has focused on the women from whom we descend. Let's begin with our immigrant grandmother: Elizabeth, who married (1) **John Harmon** and (2) **Anthony Dorchester**. She bore eight children in a sixteen year period. One of those children--her youngest-- was drowned in "ye mill brook" at the age of three. She also lost her namesake daughter at the age of three. The six remaining children all grew to adulthood. One son died prior to marriage and one daughter had no children. So, only four of her eight children left descendants. In her husband's will, Elizabeth is described by her companion as "a tender mother." John left everything he had to his wife with no clause about it being hers only until she remarry as so many early wills had.

At the time of her husband's death in March 1661; Elizabeth had six unmarried children. John Jr. was 20; Samuel was 18; Sarah, who was to be married in May 1661, was 17; Joseph was 15; Mary was 10; and my ancestor, Nathaniel, was 7 years old. The other two children had died previously. Elizabeth's daughter, Sarah, married two months after her father died and Elizabeth sold land to her new son-in-law:

A copy of a deed whereby Widdow Harman of Springfield hath sold certayne lands unto her son-in-law, Charles Ferry with the acknowledgment thereof: (See Film 844,486 Shows the mark of **Elizabeth Harmon** (HAS HER MARK) pg. 51 A (1662/63 Springfield Land Records)

Know all men by these presents that Elizabeth Harmon of Springfield, Widdow, hath, for and in good considerations moving her hereunto, given, granted, bargained, and sold and by these presents and doth fully, clearely, and absolutely give, grant, bargain, and sell unto her son-in-law, Charles Ferry of Springfield and to his heirs and assigns forever certayne parcels of land lying in Springfield aforesaid. That is to say a little peece of her, the said Widow's, Meadow Lott that lies before the street which little peece lies at the easterly end of the said Meadow and is ten rod in bredth from the little brook under the hill and holds that breadth quite through the end of ye said Meadow Lott.

Another parcel of land hereby sold is a wood lott conteyning foure acres, more or less, joyning to that little peece of meadow before mentioned being in breadth eight rodd and in length extending from ye said little brook going fourty-foure rodd eastward. And both the said little peece of meadow and this said wood lot doe border on ye lands of Widow Ulaliah Burt on ye North and of Nathaniel Prichard on ye south.

Another parcel of land hereby sold is foure acres more or less lying on ye west side of the great River and abutting on ye highway by the River side. And extending westward to Agawam and bounded on the North by the land that was formerly Henry Burt's, deceased, and on ye south with ye land that was formerly Nathaniel Prichard's. To have and to hold that little peece of meadow with foure acres of woodlott and foure acres on ye River to the said Charles Ferry and to his heirs and assigns forever. And ye said Widow Harmon doth hereby covenant and promise to and with ye said Charles Ferry, to save ye said Charles harmless from all manner of claims, right, title, or interest of any person or persons laying lawful claim to any of ye said land hereby sold by from or under her, ye said Widow or any of (her) heirs. In witness whereof the said Widow Harman hath hereunto sett her hand and seale on ye 12th of March 1662/3.

Subscribed, Sealed and Delivered

The mark of "E"

In ye presence of

Elizabeth Harmon

John Lombard and John Lamb

This deed of sale was acknowledged by the Widow Harmon (be)fore us Elizur Holyoke and Samuelli Chapin, Commissioners Recorded April 6, 1663 by me Elizur Holyoke, Recorder.

A Copy of a deed whereby Widow Harman of Springfield
 hath sold certain lands unto her son in Law Charles Henry with
 acknowledgments thereof
 In witness whereof these presents by the said Elizabeth Harman of Springfield
 widow hath for her free voluntary moving her hand and
 seal hereunto bearing witness. And by these presents both fully clearly
 & absolutely and without any reservation or exception unto her son in Law
 Henry of Springfield a bachelor & assignee for ever certain parcels
 of land lying in Springfield aforesaid that is to say a little piece of her
 the said Widow's Meadow lying by the street the first the piece
 lying at the Easterly end of the said Meadow is & directed in and added thus
 The little Brook running under the hill of breadth quite thorough
 the end of the said Meadow left Another parcel of land heretofore sold
 & now left containing four acres more or less adjoining to the
 little piece of Meadow before mentioned being in breadth eight rods
 in length extending from the said little creek to the first road East
 & West. And both the said little piece of Meadow & this said wood land do
 border on the side of Widow's Meadow on the North and of
 Nathaniel's Meadow on the South. Another parcel of land heretofore
 sold is situated across more or less lying on the West side of the above
 River a little way from the River side extending West
 more or less. Another parcel of land in the North of the land it was formerly
 Henry's Bury's deceased & in the South where the land it was formerly
 Nathaniel's Bury's deceased. To have to hold of the piece of the
 said with the four acres of wood land & four acres of the River to the
 said Charles Henry & to his heirs & assignees for ever. And the said
 Widow Harman doth hereby irrevocably & forever give & grant to the said
 Charles Henry to have & to hold the same unto him in all manner of
 claims right title or interest of any person or persons lawfully
 claiming to or of the said land heretofore sold by him or under her
 the said Widow or any of her. In witness whereof the said Widow
 Harman hath hereunto set her hand & seal the 15th of March
 1662
 Elizabeth Harman
 Subscribed & sealed & delivered
 in presence of
 John Pemberton

Here followeth a copy of an acknowledgment of John Harman and Samuëll Harman touching the land above mentioned to be sold.

Know all men to whom these presence may concern, we the above John Harman and Samuëll Harman, sons of the within named Elizabeth Harman, do hereby acknowledge our full and free consent to this deed of Sale whereby the said Elizabeth, our mother, hath sold certain parcells of land unto Charles Ferry within named yielding and giving up all our right and interest in ye said parcels of land unto ye said Charles Ferry and unto his heirs and assigns forever. Witness our hands this three and twentieth day of May Anno Domi 1665.

Witness hereunto are:

The mark “JH” of John Harman

Elizur Holyoke

Samuel Chapin.

The mark “SH” of Samuel Harman

This acknowledgment was written on ye back side

of ye said deed of sale and recorded ye said twenty-third of May 1665

by me Elizur Holyoke, Recorder

Elizabeth’s maiden name does not appear on the Springfield records. She was supposedly born in England. After the death of John, she married **Anthony Dorchester**, and helped raise his family of five children. They married about 1663. His children were: John 19; Mary 18; James 15; Benjamin 12; and Sarah 10. Anthony had buried his second wife and youngest daughter in 1662.

This is what Anthony and Elizabeth’s household looked like in 1663:

It also shows the date and age at marriage in ().

Elizabeth would have been abt. 48 -54 yrs

Anthony’s age about the same.

Harmon children:

John 22 md. 1668 (27)

Samuel 20 d. unmd 1677 (34)

Sarah 19 (married with one baby) md. 1661 (17)

Joseph 17 md. 1673 (27)

Mary 12 md. 1671 (20)

Nathaniel 9 md. 1685 (31)

Dorchester children:

John 19 md. 1671 (27)

Mary 18 md. 1668 (23)

James 15 md. 1677 (29)

Benjamin 12 md. 1675 (24)

Sarah 10 md. 1673 (20)

Our ancestor who was a “*tender mother*” valiantly took in five more children to care for! Oh, the meals those strapping young men must have consumed! Oh the firewood that must have been carried and the water-carried and heated! Oh, the gardens that must have been planted, tended and harvested! With the exception of Sarah Harmon, these children did not marry young! Two of her children later married two of Anthony’s children! In 1668, John Harmon Jr. married Mary Dorchester. In 1671, Mary Harmon married John Dorchester.

To put into perspective what Elizabeth did, I compare my life with hers. Your author currently falls within the high end of Elizabeth’s age range (55). I, too, had eight children. All are married, except one, and gone from home. My youngest is 19 and in the military. I have 14 grandchildren! Just a year ago I remarried a man about my age with five children. His youngest just got married so all of his children are now married. He has 10 grandchildren. I cannot even imagine still having ten children home to cook and care for! I salute my dear 8th Great-grandmother! What a woman!

Elizabeth was a religious woman. Her children and grandchildren carried Biblical names. Many married religious leaders in the community. Their names are often found in the town and church records of Springfield and Suffield. An interesting thing about the Harmon and Dorchester families is that although they often appear in the town records, it is not usually because they were troublesome—with a couple exceptions. Samuel Harmon was fined for misbehaving on the Sabbath day following his father's death and Charles Ferry had a somewhat cantankerous spirit at times. He even filed suits against his brother-in-law.

Elizabeth not only “combined” the two families—(or you might say three as Anthony had children by two different wives) she extended her reach to include Anthony's step-daughter, Martha Kitcherell who married Abel Wright. She included in her circle the second husband (Luke Hitchcock) of Sarah (Burt) Dorchester whom Sarah married following the untimely death of her new husband, Benjamin Dorchester. Elizabeth instilled in her family a unity and closeness that still exists ten generations later! So very many of us want to know WHO she is!

Anthony applied for land grants for his own and his wife's sons in Springfield. He was considerate and caring toward all of them. Just two years before Anthony's death, he had an experience which is recorded in the town records and mentions his wife:

*“A Negro who says his name is Jack, being sent for and examined saith that he came from Wethersfield and is run away from Mr. Samuel Wolcot because he always beats him sometimes with 100 blows so that he hath told his Master that he would sometime or other hang himself. He says he ran away from him one week and a half since. He says he stole a gun at the next towne viz Springfield and hath left it in the woods. He laid it down in a path because it had noe flint in it. **Anthony Dorchester** saith that today about noon this Negro came to his house and after asking for a pipe of tobacco which I told him there was some on the table, he took my knife and cut some and then put it in his pocket; and after that took down a cutlass and offered to draw it; but it coming out stiff, **I closed in upon him and so bound him with the help of my wife (Elizabeth) and daughter.** When scrambling in his pocket I suspected me might have a knife and searching him found my knife naked in his pocket which he would fain have got out but I prevented him and took it away; I committed the said Negro to prison there to remain and be safely secure till discharged by Authority.”*

Who is the daughter mentioned? It is my guess, and only a guess, that John and Mary Dorchester may have lived with or very near Anthony and Elizabeth. They had no children and seem the logical ones to help care for aged parents.

Anthony died in Springfield 28 Aug 1683. He was survived by his wife, Elizabeth, to whom he had been married about twenty years or more; his sons, John Dorchester and James Dorchester; and his daughters Mary Dorchester Harmon and Sarah Dorchester Stebbins; and a step-daughter, Martha Kitchwell Wright. He was preceded in death by two wives-- Sarah who died in 1649; Martha who died in 1662; and three children: Benjamin died in 1675; Hester died in 1662; and a step-son, Samuel Kitchwell who died in 1651. Anthony had 19 grandchildren—six of whom were born after his death. Three preceded him in death--so at the time of death, Anthony had 13 living grandchildren ranging in age from 14 years to less than one year.

Inventory of Anthony's estate was presented in 1683 by his son, John (who was married to Mary Harmon). An agreement was made between sons John and James; grandchild, Benjamin (age 8 years--his father had died when Benjamin was an infant); daughter, Mary, wife of John Harmon; daughter Sarah, wife of Joseph Stebbins; and his step-daughter Martha, who was the daughter of his second wife, Martha Kitchell and married to Abel Wright--who claimed something for what her mother, the widow of Samuel Kitchell (Kitcherell) once of Hartford, brought to the late **Anthony Dorchester**.

Just the phrase “an agreement was made” indicates closeness among the family members. Martha's claim indicates that some of Anthony's estate was enhanced by his marriage to Martha Chapman Kitchell. No one seemed to dispute that young Martha had a right to make this claim.

Was Elizabeth able to live alone? Did she live with some of her married children? Was she in good health? She spent sixteen years as a widow after the death of Anthony. In her lifetime, she braved Indian raids, children and grandchildren dying; a babe drowning in the brook; having her town burned to the ground; dealt with a rebellious teenager who misbehaved in church; dealt with a grown son-in-law fighting with her children over land; lived to a very

elderly age--the last sixteen years of which she was without a husband and at a very advanced age. Elizabeth would have been between 68 and 74 years at the time of her second widowhood. Her youngest son, Nathaniel was 29 years old and still unmarried. He had land in Suffield so it is probable that he was no longer living at home with his mother. However, Suffield is just across the river, so it is also very possible that he visited often.

In 1684, Charles Ferry took his brother-in-law to court. (Charles was married to Elizabeth's dau, Sarah Harmon) plaintiff against John Dorchester (married to Elizabeth's dau, Mary Harmon): *"According to summons for that said Dorchester took away a load of Charles Ferry's hay which is to his damage as shall be made appear. Charles Ferry says he mowed and made the hay and set it by Agawam River side on his own land as per testimonies of John and Charles Ferry; John Dorchester says I know no hay of Charles Ferrys that I fetched away and can own no such thing. I carried away hay of my own and none but what I took for my own. I own fetching hay of my own and none but what was my own. Charles Ferry's proof falling short, I find for the Defendant. Costs of court viz entry 8s; summons 3s. John Dorchester after Charles was gone, demanded 2s costs."*

Later, *"Charles Ferry, Plaintiff, against John Dorchester, Defendant, on review of the case about a load of hay which John Dorchester took from Agawam River side in September last which Charles Ferry challenges and is said to his said Ferry's damage as he shall make appear. Charles Ferry says, "That hay was mine. I mowed it and made it upon my own land as per the testimonies on file." John Dorchester says that the land was accepted Charles Ferry as buying it of Widow Harmon, (Elizabeth) but Charles Ferry sold it to my father (Anthony Dorchester) 16 years ago and we have had it in possession ever since without molestation till now and therefore land and hay is mine. Putting it to Goodman Ferry why he let them enjoy it 16 years, he, the said Charles, said He did not know who improved the land or who had it and produced a deed that he bought the land of Widow Harmon. To which John Dorchester replied that that might well be and afterward he might sell it to his father, and did so; and hath owned it. That he Let my father have it; The hay Goodman Ferry's two sons that made it say it was as they guessed a good load and John says it was 24 cocks. John Dorchester ownes it to be about 14 or 15 cocks and was course hay. Upon the pleas and evidences in the case, I find for the Plaintiff, Charles Ferry. In case the land be his on which the hay was made and do so appear then I find for the plaintiff 15 cocks of hay or 15s and costs of court. In case the land be John Dorchesters, then I find for the defendant costs of court 3s 6d. After judgment declared as above each party agreed about the Title of the Land as follows: The land being about an acre: Though John Dorchester says his father bought it of Charles Ferry, yet not producing any deed and Charles Ferry saying he knows not that ever he sold it, John Dorchester relinquishes all his future right to the land and allows Charles Ferry for mowing and making the hay ten shillings; and Charles Ferry is to bear and allow all costs of court and to this agreement each party are consenting and desired this record to be made accordingly as a final issue of all matters concerning the hay and land; and agreed that it should so stand on record under my hand. John Pynchon, Assistant.*

In May of 1685, An acquittance of John Harmon (Jr.)--husband of Mary Dorchester, to her brothers, John and James Dorchester stating that he had already received the forty pounds due him upon the death of **Anthony Dorchester** who died intestate:

*These gentlemen testify by oath that whereas **Anthony Dorchester**, deceased [died intestate] under which consideration the ... Corte [held in Springfield the 3rd of September Anno Dom 1684] made a distribution of the estate of the deceased **Anthony Dorchester** [awarding to his surviving children] according to law, and made his two sons, John Dorchester and James Dorchester administrators of the said estate of which estate the said Corte gave to me, John Harmon of Springfield and son-in-law to the said Dorchester deceased] forty pounds, which forty pounds I have already received of John and James Dorchester to my full satisfaction; therefore, I, John Harmon, do by these presents for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns acquit and forever discharge the said John and James Dorchester, their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of all legacies, or ... due to me or my ... from the said estate. Witness my hand. John Herman X (his mark)*

In the presence of us:

John Richards

Thomas Vigers (his mark)

John Herman above subscribing his mark came personally and acknowledged the same that he was fully paid and did discharge and acquit John and James Dorchester formal payments as above said and make acknowledgment whereof and of this, his full acquittance, Sept. 18th, 1685.

Before

John Pynchon

The above acquittance entered into the records on October 9, 1685 by John Holyoke.

On 16 May 1699, **Elizabeth Harmon Dorchester** died at Springfield. She spent the last sixteen years of her life as a widow. Where did she live? She had two married daughters in Springfield—Mary with no children and Sarah with a large family. Her son, John, also lived in Springfield; while Joseph and Nathaniel were across the river in Suffield. Some records claim Elizabeth was ninety-one years at the time of her death. Elizabeth was preceded in death by two husbands, **John Harmon** to whom she had been married about 21 years and **Anthony Dorchester** to whom she was also married about 20 years. She was the mother of eight children; three of whom—Samuel, Ebenezer, and Elizabeth—preceded her in death. Elizabeth was survived by sons, John, Joseph, and Nathaniel; and daughters Sarah Ferry and Mary Dorchester. Elizabeth had 35 grandchildren—five of whom were born following her death to her son, Nathaniel. Seven grandchildren preceded Elizabeth in death. At the time of her death, she had 23 living grandchildren. Her oldest living grandchild was 37 and the youngest was two. Nathaniel had five more children after his mother's death—one just three months later and his last child in 1711. At the time of Elizabeth's death, only five of her living grandchildren were known to be married. Because some of my information is incomplete, I do not know how many great-grandchildren she had at the time of her death.

Elizabeth's son-in-law, Charles Ferry, died only 1½ months after she did. Her daughter, Sarah, lived as a widow for 41 years—the longest living of John and Elizabeth's children—age 96 years. The ages of her other children at their deaths were: John 71; Samuel 34; Joseph 83; Elizabeth 3; Mary 64; Nathaniel 59; and Ebenezer 3.



WHO IS ELIZABETH?

Judge George Washington Harmon carefully searched out our Harmon ancestors and willed his manuscripts to the town of Suffield, Connecticut which was founded by our Harmon family. It is from his work that Artemus C. Harmon was able to compile his book on The Harmon Genealogy. In Judge Harmon's work he does NOT claim that our John came on the ship Love. He does state, however, "**John Harmon 1st born in England 1617; died Mar 3, 1661, in Springfield, Mass; md in 1640 to Elizabeth (...) b. in England 1617. She md. again before 1664 to Anthony Dorchester. He died Aug 28, 1683 in Springfield. She died May 16, 1699.**" Of all the sources I have studied on the Harmon family, the one source consistently the most correct seems to be The Harmon Genealogy.

I have no dependable source giving the ancestral identity of **Elizabeth Harmon**. When I published my first book, My Harmon Heritage--Descendants of John Harmon and Elizabeth Southwell, I had no idea what a Pandora's box I was opening. Upon being challenged for sources of Elizabeth's maiden name of Southwell, I found that my only reply was a naive "*This is the way it has always been in my family's records.*" Since that time I have been trying to discover if Elizabeth could be a Southwell or if she was a Cummings or a Potter or a Sampson as others have suggested. It is not helpful that so much error has been perpetuated through the years. This type of research requires original sources which may not be available at this time. The fact that Elizabeth Cummings and Elizabeth Southwell have been named as mothers of our John's children has compounded the error. I will examine some of my findings here:

After much careful research and combing of many early researcher's works, I am not at all sure who our **Elizabeth Harmon** is. We know our **John Harmon** settled in Springfield, Massachusetts in the early 1640s with his wife, Elizabeth, (surname unproven) and two sons, John and Samuel.

My answer to the following claims regarding Elizabeth's identity:

CUMMINGS

The Ancestral File favorite by far for Elizabeth's surname is "Cummings." My research has shown that an Elizabeth Cummings did indeed marry a **John Harmon**. However, contrary to the Ancestral File, her John was NOT our **John Harmon**.

Artemus Harmon's book, The Harmon Genealogy, Comprising All Branches in New England published in 1920 by Gibson Bros. Inc. in Washington D.C. clearly identifies Elizabeth Cummings and distinctly names her children. This information needs to be brought to the attention of those who claim the Cummings surname as that of our Elizabeth. Our Elizabeth is NOT the Elizabeth Cummings listed on the Ancestral File!

Quoting Artemus Harmon, page 138: "**John Harmon** was one of the few persons in Saco [Maine] who owned horses in 1674. Carriages were unknown. On July 28, 1674, Richard Cummings, **John Harmon**, and others with their horses were allowed use of Humphrey Scammon's ferry, near the mouth of Saco River.

Elizabeth Cummings Harmon, born at Old Orchard, the only daughter of Richard Cummings, **married 1st her cousin, John Foxwell**, and after his death she married 2nd **John Harmon**, previous to 1680. Mr. Harmon became the sole heir to that part of the Boynton Patent which fell to the wife of Cummings. **John Harmon and Elizabeth Cummings had an only child named Elizabeth.** She married **Joseph Banks**, of York, to which place Harmon removed before 1690. Banks thus acquired Harmon's right, but in 1714 conveyed one half of it to Peter Weare and others. **John Harmon and Thomas Cummings were the administrators of the estate of Richard Cummings, who d. abt 1676.** Thomas did not long survive his father. **John Harmon** was sent by Saco, as Deputy to the Assembly in 1681."

In summary:

The **John Harmon** who married Elizabeth Cummings is a son of James Harmon. This John was born about 1650 and married in 1673 **Elizabeth Cummings Foxwell**. After the death of Elizabeth Cummings Foxwell Harmon, John married 2nd in York, Maine--abt 1675-- **Deborah Johnson**. He died in York, Maine in 1695. Our John was born about 1617; married Elizabeth about 1640; had eight children--six of whose births are documented in Springfield town records; and he died in 1661 in Springfield, MA.

John Harmon and Elizabeth Cummings had ONLY one child, Elizabeth. A descendant of this daughter

supplied the information that Artemus Harmon used in his book. For years, genealogists have copied others research and claim that our Elizabeth is this Miss Cummings. That is WRONG, WRONG, WRONG!!! Elizabeth Cummings is carefully documented and she did not marry our John! Please help me correct this error!!!!

SOUTHWELL

As mentioned previously, I have no documentation to prove the origin of the Southwell Elizabeth as John's wife. Later generations of our Harmon family married into the Southwell family—even a John, but not the Springfield John! According to Savage's Dictionary of First Settlers, Ebenezer Southwell of Northampton is the son of William of Northampton and he married Elizabeth Judd, daughter of Samuel. They had a daughter, Elizabeth born 1721; and Ebenezer removed to Suffield, CT.

William Southwell, of Northampton (which is near Springfield), married on 24 Feb 1687, Sarah Stebbins, daughter of John of Northampton and had: Mary, Enoch, Sarah, Ebenezer, Abigail, Hannah, Enoch, and John. Savage suggests that William immigrated later than 1670. Since our Elizabeth was over 90 in 1699, these Southwells could not be her family. I humbly admit my error in claiming that our Elizabeth is a Southwell. She probably is NOT! Apparently some previous genealogist in my family copied someone elses' records without documentation just as I did! I do not know where this source originated—nor could I find anything to substantiate it.

SAMPSON

The Ancestral File also has an Elizabeth Sampson, daughter of Henry and Anne Plummer Sampson as another possibility for the wife of our **John Harmon**. Elizabeth is married (according to the Ancestral File) to **John Harmon**, son of Francis. Her husband, John, has been given an approximated birth date of 1623 and a death date of 3 Mar 1661. (We have 7 Mar 1661)-- both at Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts. If the estimated dates are correct, Elizabeth Sampson would have been born when her father was about 13 years old. Their estimated birth date comes from the Ship Love age of its passenger, John—who is in all likelihood not our John as I have already shown. The death date they use is almost the same as our death date—just miscopied by someone. I have the following reservations about this Elizabeth:

1. There is a question mark by her name in the Ancestral File.
2. The estimated ages do not seem to be logical. Our Elizabeth was born probably between 1609 and 1617. She died in 1699--supposedly 90+ years old. Elizabeth's birth date is uncertain. If Springfield town records are correct and she was 91 at her death in 1699, then she would have been born about 1609. This makes her about eight years older than her husband, John. Other suppositions are that she was born about 1617—about the same age as John. Therefore, I present her age with this 8-year gap----when one is 91, why would anyone lie about their age?
3. According to the Ancestral File, this **John Harmon** and Elizabeth Sampson had a daughter, Sarah Jane Harmon, born abt 1651 in Plymouth, MA. Our John was having children in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1651.
4. Sarah Jane married in New Jersey and raised her children there. None of our John's descendants that we know of lived in New Jersey.
5. It appears to me that **Elizabeth Sampson and her husband, John Harmon, have been assigned, by some genealogist, the death dates and place of our John and Elizabeth**. In order for this Elizabeth to have been over 90 years old at her death as was the Springfield Elizabeth, she would have been born abt 1609 or before. Elizabeth Sampson's **father**--according to the Ancestral File was born 1610. Henry Sampson's father has a complete birth date of 24 Jun 1575--making him 45 years old when Henry was born--not impossible, but somewhat questionable. Could it be possible that Henry was born earlier? If so, then he may be old enough to be the father of a daughter born in 1609. This needs further research.
6. It has been suggested that Elizabeth Sampson might be a second wife of our John. This is not possible because our John's wife outlived him by 38 years.
7. I think the biggest drawback is that Sarah Jane married Captain Samuel Doty. Our John's Sarah married Charles Ferry and her family is well documented. From this information, it seems we can eliminate Elizabeth Sampson as the wife of our John.

See how easy to perpetuate error when we make assumptions????

POTTER

In the Book, Goff-Davis Ancestral Lines--The Ancestry of Moulton Babcock Goff and his wife, Agnes Hopkins Davis, Lois B. Goff suggests that Elizabeth may be a Potter--a relative of Vincent Potter--pg. 281:

"Elizabeth's maiden name may have been Potter. While nothing is known of her family, a Mr. Vincent Potter, a freeman in Sandwich in the Plymouth Colony in 1644, conceivably could have been a relative but was not old enough to be her father."

*"The widow Elizabeth became the third wife of the widower **Anthony Dorchester** of Springfield, probably in 1663. Elizabeth was again widowed on 28 August 1682 and died on 16 May 1699. Supposedly she was then 90 years of age, questionable as this would have made her considerably older than both her husbands and having her last child at age 48."*

Where oh where did they get the idea that her maiden name could be Potter? I have investigated Goff's sources carefully and cannot answer that question! The author, Agnes Hopkins Davis, is descended from Sarah Ferry, daughter of Charles Ferry and Sarah Harmon. If any of Elizabeth's children would have left a clue to her identity, there is a strong possibility that her eldest daughter, Sarah, just might have done so. I checked the Ancestral File and IGI for Vincent Potter and the IGI has a Vincent Potter born abt. 1614 in England. Thomas Gibbs Crane is listed as his relative. I cannot find anything on Thomas. In the book Pioneers of Massachusetts by Pope on page 370, I find the following about Vincent Potter: "*Vincent Potter, gent., ae 21 came in the Elizabeth and Ann in May 1635. Had apprentices, John Johnson, Stephen Barrett, Henry Kenninge, and William Browne, whom he placed with new masters in 1639. He was entertained to serve at the fort in Boston for one year from 13 (8) 1636, at 10 li. wages."*

On page 174 of the same book, "*Thomas Fowle, gent., armiger, merchant 1639. Settled at Boston; adm. church 25 (1) 1643. Wife Margaret adm. church 31 (1) 1640. Ch: Elizabeth b. 14 (1) 1639; John b. 1 (5) 1641; Margaret b. 13 (2) 1643; Marie bapt. 16 (2) 1643 ae. 4 da.; James bapt. 8 (10) 1644 ae 5 da; Martha bapt 25 (8) 1646 ae abt. 7 da."* Thomas Fowle was one of the petitioners for citizenship of non-church members in 1645. Has shipping accounts 5 (7) 1645. Thomas Fowle calls Vincent Potter his brother-in-law. In the time period we are talking about, brother-in-law often meant "the son of my mother or step-mother, by a previous marriage.

Concerning Vincent Potter's apprentices, I found in Pope's book: pg. 35 "*Stephen Barrett, Ipswich, placed by Vincent Potter 21 (4) 1639 with Wm. Foster as an apprentice. (pg. 173--Wm Foster, planter, came in 1634; settled at Ipswich; proprietor in 1634; Took an apprentice 21 (4) 1639). Pg. 266: Henry Kenninge placed as an apprentice with Wm. Parke of Roxbury 21 (4) 1639, by Vincent Potter. Rem. to Salem. Wife, Ann, Salem adm church 24 (6) 1654. Children: John bapt. 10 (7) 1654; Mary bapt. 3 (5) 1659; Sarah, bapt. 29 (4) 1662. Elizabeth, of Sister K. (meaning daughter of) bapt. 1 (3) 1664. Elizabeth also bapt. 12 (3) 1666."* Pg. 75: *William Brown(e) arrived June 22, 1639, apprentice to Mr. Vincent Potter, who released him to Thomas Joy, carpenter Sept. 24, 1639. (Thomas Joy--pg. 264--carpenter, Boston; propr. 1636; Built townhouse 1640. Wife Joane Gallop. She d. 1690/91. He d. 1678.) pg. 260 John Johnson, ae 23, came in the Elizabeth Apr. 15, 1635. No more information.*

Vincent placed an apprentice at Roxbury--where **John Harmon** supposedly lived about the time of his marriage.

Is there a piece to a puzzle here: Elizur Holyoke's kinswoman, Mary Mansfield, was married first to John Gove; then John Mansfield. In Pioneers of Massachusetts the possible spellings of Gove include Gobe, Goffe--and could we also suggest Goff? The interest in this lies in the fact that Elizue Holyoke was present when our **John Harmon** signed his will in Springfield, Massachusetts. John and Elizabeth had a great-great granddaughter who married a Mansfield.

Mary Gove gave her full consent for her daughter, Mary, to be adopted by Ralph Mousall and his wife after the death of her husband, John Gove. She also had two sons: John and Edward. The legacy that was to come to these three children included some brass "which is to come out of England by Mr. James Allen." (Charlestown Records; Norf. Files Reg. VII, 170)

Elizur Holyoke was among the younger members of the Springfield settlement and a leader in Indian warfare. He was the son of Edward Holyoke of Romney Marsh or Chelsea, Massachusetts. The original Holyoke home had been in Tamworth, Warwickshire, England. About 1640 he married William Pynchon's daughter, Mary. In time he became a large land holder. Mount Holyoke (near Springfield) was named after him. He died 5 Feb 1676 while

commanding troops fighting the Indians in King Phillip's War.

The possibility that **Elizabeth Harmon** (or her husband John) could be related to Holyoke or Pynchon--or Henry Smith seems strong. Where do Goff's come in?

POSSIBLE DUTCH DESCENT?

In the personal history of Diantha Hanchett Gardner sent to me by a descendant, we read: "*This town of Erie, Erie Co., Pa., was where our beloved Grandma Diantha Hanchett was born 17 October 1831. Her parents were of DUTCH descent. Her father was Martin Hanchett (son of Diantha Harmon and John Hanchett)-- a grandson of Martin Harmon and Tryphena; her mother's name was Sarah Mecham. Some of her brothers and sisters were born in Kirtland, Ohio and some in McKean, Erie, PA.*"

David Danielson's genealogy on genealogy.com regarding Descendants of Isaiah Mathur Rogers states: *In a letter written in 1934, Huldah C. Rogers Palmer, eldest daughter of Isaiah Mathur and Huldah (Harmon) Rogers said of her parents, "Mother and Father were married when she was 14 1/2 years old. She was nearly 16 when I was born and he was 44. I think Father was a school teacher and she was one of the pupils, a small girl with blue eyes and curly hair, of Pennsylvania Dutch and French descent.* [Huldah Harmon was dau of Alpheus Harmon and Hulda Dimeras Vaughn – the French descent would possibly be on the Vaughn side as they came from Canada. See Scattered Tribes of Hulda Dimeras Vaughn by Cheryl Harmon Bills, 2006.]

In seeking for any possible reference to Dutch ancestry, the one thing I have found is in The Charles Ferry Family In America compiled by Edward M. Ferry in 1978 and printed by the Gazette Printing Company of Northampton, Massachusetts.

*"That **John Harmon** was in Springfield before Charles Ferry there can be no doubt, as his name appears on the records as early as 1644. The origin of the Harmon family is less certain. The name Harmon, Harman, Herman, Hermain is found in the Huguenot Records as early as 1549, and in the Registers of the Norwich and Canterbury Registers at various times, but the country from which they came is uncertain. In some entries one gains the impression that the family was **Dutch**, while in other places the name appears to be **French**.*

*A Norwich church entry of 1549 reads as follows:-- 'Southward 1549 Strangers being householders Harman Cornelius Members of the **Dutch** Church.'*

Other entries show the variation of the name. 'Harman wool comber Flanders 1560 wife and three children born in England.'

'Sept. 19, 1571. Charles Harman and others were warned not to disturb the church or they would be turned out.'

*'Cornelius Harman weaver 30 years of age and Catherine his wife 44 years of age. **Hollanders** having a daughter of 11 years and have been three years here. Came for the cause of religion.'*

*From a state paper we find the following:-- "Domestic. Reign of Queen Elizabeth. Returns of Strangers in the suburbs of London 18-20 Dec. 1571 Aleysander Harman of **Cologne**. Church St. Racheim. Anne Harman his wife of Luke. Same Church. Naturalized inhabitant.'*

*'Nov 10, 1571. Corn. Cornelius Harmon born in Colleyne Cologne servant. Came into the kingdom about six years ago. **Dutchman**.'*

*'Sept 1588. Harmans Dierich, cobbler, A householder, **dutchman**.'*

The above quotations were taken from The Walloons and their Church at Norwich and quoted in the aforementioned Ferry book on page 11. The following are taken from the Registers of the Church of the Strangers at Canterbury:

'April 22, 1630. Marriages. Jacque Du Miny.... and Marie Hermain daughter of Andrew Hermain also of Canterbury.'

*'May 4, 1690. Baptism,---Anne daughter of **Pierre Ferre** witness. **Jaques Herman**.'* This entry indicates that at least some Ferre and Harmon/Herman families were acquainted in England--even though the date is thirty years after Charles Ferry came to America and **John Harmon**'s death.

The name of Charles Ferry first appears in the records of Springfield as early as 18 Apr 1659 when he purchased land from Joseph Crowfoot. Just when did he come? *"If one follows the notation in the Canterbury Church Register when his sister Marie was married 23 Feb 1659/60, that she was the daughter of the 'late Jean Ferret,' the occasion for his departure from England may have been his father's death. His coming to Springfield was perhaps the result of acquaintance with the Harmon (Harman/Herman) family in England. The name Harman is found in the Registers of the Huguenot churches in both Canterbury and Norwich."*

So--what is Charles Ferry's connection to the Harmons once in Springfield? He married their oldest daughter, Sarah Harmon on 29 March 1661; purchased land of the Widow Harmon and built the first home on the east side on the meadow lands.

The possibility of Dutch ancestry has not even been tapped as far as I know. If there is Dutch ancestry, the clues in the Ferry book bear checking out. Since Sarah is the eldest daughter of John and Elizabeth, the chances of her family knowing something about this are very strong.

In summary, who is **Elizabeth Harmon**? I don't know. I do know she went into the wilderness with her husband and babies and she made a home for them. She was a "tender mother" and well loved by her husband. She had eight children and raised several of her second husband's children as well.



Most sources used in this chapter are mentioned within the text itself.

PART TWO

ASSOCIATES OF JOHN AND ELIZABETH HARMON

in Springfield, Massachusetts
Covering approximately 1636-1690

Because no man is an island; nor does he suddenly come into existence; and because maintaining close family ties was, and still is, important to the Harmon family, I believe with all my heart that the clues to the identity of our unknown ancestors will be found among those they associated with. The relationships were possibly so well understood that they were not mentioned in the records--and they probably had no idea that someday over three hundred years from their time that some Idaho gal---and a lot of others along the way--would not know what to them was so obvious---that Elizabeth was the sister of so and so or that John's close associate was his brother-in-law; cousin, etc. This makes those persons who were present for special events as well as neighbors and fellow citizens of great importance. Who followed the same migration patterns from England to Roxbury to Springfield as John and Elizabeth? Who was consistently involved in their lives? What clues might we find to possible relationships among these associates?

With these questions in mind, lets now take a peek into the lives of their associates during the time John and Elizabeth were in Springfield. These are the associates of **John and Elizabeth Harmon**! The earliest known associates were the Pynchons.

KEY:



() Assuming **John Harmon** was born in 1617, the number in parentheses beside each name denotes that associate's age in relation to John's age. All Springfield researchers owe a debt of gratitude to William Pynchon for taking seriously his charge to keep good records. It is wonderful that so many early vital and town records are available for Springfield as well as the enlightening court records of the time!

Pynchon Family--Founders of Springfield

All Springfield researchers owe a debt of gratitude to William and John Pynchon for taking seriously their charge to keep good records. It is wonderful that so many early vital and town records are available for Springfield as well as the enlightening court records of the time!

William Pynchon (+27):

BIRTH: 26 Dec 1590 Springfield, Essex, England; son of John Pynchon & Frances Brett

MARRIAGE: 1623/1624 Springfield, Essex, England (1) Anna Andrews dau of William Andrew & Brigetta Risley . She died 30 Aug 1630 at Roxbury, Norfolk, Massachusetts

(2) Frances Sanford Smith, widow, known as the “grave matron of Dorchester” She had a son, Henry Smith, b. 1607/8 at Buckingham, Norfolk, England.

DEATH: 29 Oct 1662 at Wraysbury, Bucks, England Will dated 4 Oct 1662, and proved

8 Dec 1662. *“William Pynchon of Wrasbury, alis Wyradisbury, Buckinghamshire, gent., bequeathed to Elizabeth, Mary, and Rebecca Smith, daughters of my son Master Henry Smith, and to his son Elisha Smith twenty pounds apiece, to be paid by my son Mr. Henry Smith, at the time of their marriage, as he did unto Martha Smith, out of a bond which he owes me, of two hundred and twenty pounds; to my daughter, Anne Smith the rest of said bond with the overplus of interest. To the children of my daughter Margaret Davis, of Boston in New England, deceased, videlicet unto Thomas, Benjamin, and William Davis, ten pounds apiece; to my son Master John Pynchon, of Springfield in New England a sum out of the bond which he owes me of one hundred and six pounds; to the children of my son Master Elizur Holioke in New England, the debts due from my son Mr. Henry Smith; to the poor of Wraysbury, three pounds; son John Pynchon to be executor and to be residuary legatee provided he pay to Joseph and John Pynchon and to Mary and Hetabell Pynchon twenty pounds apiece. Mr. Wickens, citizen and girdler of London, and Mr. Henry Smith of Wraysbury to be overseers; Mr. John Wickens to be my executor touching the business concerning the estate of Master Nicholas Ware in Virginia; to my beloved sister Jane Tesdall of Abington twenty pounds; to sister Susan Platt twenty pounds.”*

BIOGRAPHY: Emigrated: 29 Mar 1630, with John Winthrop’s fleet, accompanied by his wife and three daughters. His son, John, stayed behind and came on a different ship. **William brought over several servants promising them fifty acres each.** (See the Chapter on Roxbury for more information and sources.) The Winthrop Fleet was motivated by their desire to practice religion free from the persecution of the Crown-Church of England.

William Pynchon was gifted as a colonizer and as a businessman as well as deeply religious. William was also a champion of Indian rights and because of him and the way he treated the Indians he was able to successfully establish a colony at Springfield among the Indians. Since he kept the only “store” in the community, his account books give insight into the settlers lives according to the purchases, etc. that they made and how they paid for them. He was regarded as one of the most important fur traders in Massachusetts Bay prior to 1650. (*“About the year 1640, John Harmon landed in Boston, America, and after a year or two in Roxbury, joined the few under their leader, Pynchon, on the fertile banks of the Connecticut River and was one of the first settlers of Springfield, MA.”*) William Pynchon built a warehouse at Warehouse Point for the storing, stretching, and trading of furs. (*On 2 Nov 1647, John Harmon was made surveyor of highways of the lower part of town and as such extended a road to Warehouse Point to facilitate the movement of supplies and beaver pelts between Springfield and Pynchon’s warehouse.*)

In the 1650s, Pynchon’s religious views became controversial with the accepted norm of Massachusetts. He was ordered by the General court of Boston to destroy a book he had published, The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption. Upon his refusal to do so, he was banished to England in 1652 where he continued to write religious pamphlets that were controversial with the established religions of the day.

Pynchon’s known places of residence include:

DORCHESTER, MA: William settled first at Dorchester but within a short time removed with a following of believers to found the settlement at Roxbury. *“Mr. William Pinchon was chosen an Assistant yearely so long as he lived among us; his wife dyed soone after he landed at N. Eng.; he brought 4 children to N.E. Ann, Mary, John, Margaret. After some years he married Mrs. Frances Sanford, a grave matron of the church at Dorchester.*

ROXBURY, MA: William Pynchon is described as *“a gentleman of learning and religion”* and is regarded as the *“Principal founder of the town of Roxbury, and the first member who joins in forming the Congregational Church there in 1632.”* In 1635, the residents of Roxbury were granted liberty to move to another location provided they continue under the Bay government. Pynchon led an expedition down the Connecticut River and found what he felt was the ideal place for a religious colony and a trading post. In 1635, Pynchon left Roxbury in company with the Reverend Thomas Hooker’s group and sailed down the river to the place where the Agawam and Connecticut Rivers converge. He recruited other settlers with specific skills needed by the developing community that would become Springfield--named for the birthplace of its founder.

SPRINGFIELD: (AGAWAM) *When so many removed from these parts to Plant Connecticut River he was with other company went thither & planter at a place called Agawam & was recommenced to the church at Windsor on Connecticut, until such time as it should please God to provide that they might enter into church estate among themselves. Afterwards he (William Pynchon) wrote a Dialogue concerning Justification which was printed 1650, titled “The Meritorious Price,” a book full of error & weakness and some heresies which the Generall court of the Massachusetts condemned to be burnt and appointed John Norton then Teacher at Ispwich to confute the errors contained therein.”*

WRAYSBURY, ENGLAND: William Pynchon was banished from the colonies because of his religious views and he returned to England in 1652. His son-in-law, Henry Smith and Anne joined him in England. George Maxon, the minister at Springfield, also followed William to England. The Holyokes stayed in the colony and helped establish Northampton and the Holyoke communities. William’s son, John, remained at Springfield where he took over his father’s businesses there. William Pynchon died ten years after his banishment on 29 Oct 1662.

CHILDREN: William Pynchon and Anna Andrews:

1. **Anne Pynchon:** was born in England; she married her step-brother, Henry Smith, son of his father’s second wife, Mrs. Frances Sanford Smith. William Pynchon mentions five of Anne’s children in his will: Martha, Elisha, Elizabeth, Mary, and Rebecca. William’s banishment was very traumatic for Anne. It is reported that she “went crazy” afterward. She and Henry returned to England when her father was banished. Anne died in England. (See later write-up on Henry Smith.)

CHILDREN of Anne and Henry Smith:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Hannah (Ann) md. John Allin | 7. Sarah b. in 1648 |
| 2. Mary who d. in 1641 | 8. Elisha b. 1650 |
| 3. Martha b. 1641 | 9. Rebecca. b. 1650 |
| 4. Mary b. 1642/43; md Richard Lord | 10. Samuel b. 1651 |
| 5. Elizabeth b. 1644 | 11. Abigail b. 1652/53 |
| 6. Margaret/Sarah who died in 1648 | |

2. **Mary Pynchon:** was born in England. She married: Elizur Holyoke, son of *“Mr. Holliokey of Linn, Mr. Pinchon’s ancient friend”* In William Pynchon’s will, her children are not named, but William does mention the children of “my son Master Elizur Holyoke in New England.”

CHILDREN of Mary and Elizur Holyoke:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. John b. 1641-- d. 1641 | 2. John b. 1642--d. 1712 unmd; |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|

3. Hannah b. 1644 – md. Samuel Talcott
4. a child b.& d. 1646

5. Samuel b. 1647 – d. 1676 unmd
6. Edward b. 1649 – d. 1708
7. Elizur b. 1651; m. Mary ____.
8. Mary b. 1656.

Mary Pynchon Holyoke died 20 Oct 1657, leaving a young family and her husband remarried Editha Stebbins Day.

3. **John Pynchon:** (+9)

BIRTH: John was born abt 1626, at Chelmsford, Essex, England.

MARRIAGE: He married Amy Wyllys of Hartford, daughter of the late Governor George Wyllys of the Connecticut colony.

DEATH: He died: 28 Jan 1703

BIOGRAPHY: John was very prominent in the Springfield settlement. When his father, William Pynchon, returned to England in 1652 due to a religious conflict with the Massachusetts General Court, his son John inherited his father's political and economic privileges in Springfield. They sold furs, traded with the West Indies, bought land and rented land. John Pynchon soon became the wealthiest and most powerful figure in western Massachusetts.

John was Springfield's largest land owner. In the year 1685, 49 out of a total of 120 male inhabitants rented land or housing from Pynchon. Of the 120 inhabitants on the tax list of that year, 113 or 94.2% rented from Pynchon at some point in their lives. Between the years of 1652 and 1702, a total of 142 renters paid Pynchon over L4,000 for 1,500 contract years. His annual income from rent receipts during this time ranged from L100 to L150, in addition to the taxes paid by tenants and value derived by their improvement of his lands. In addition to lands and houses, tenants rented oxen, horses, bulls, cows, sheep, and pigs; they leased corn and saw mills and artisans rented their tools from him---one blacksmith leased everything in his shop. Pynchon also rented out fur-trading rights, warehouse space, and shares in oceangoing vessels to his more affluent tenants. The tenants were often responsible for the construction and maintenance of fences on the rented land and the taxes as well. He required tenants to clear and bring to plowing all or part of the leasehold. He expected half the offspring of the rented livestock

CHILDREN of John Pynchon and Amy Wyllis:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph b. 1646; d. 1682 | 3. Mary b. 1650; d. 1674 | 5. Mehitable b. 1661; d. 1663 |
| 2. John b. 1647; d. 1721 | 4. William b. 1653; d. 1654 | |

4. **Margaret Pynchon:** was born in England. She married William Davis on 6 December 1644 in Boston, Massachusetts. The couple lived in both Springfield and Boston. She died just ten years later on 3 July 1654, the same day her daughter, Sara, was born. It is not know if the infant lived. William Pynchon's will mentions three children of Margaret Davis: Thomas, William, and Benjamin.

CHILDREN of Margaret and William Davis:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Thomas b. 1645 | 3. Benjamin b. 1653 |
| 2. William b. 1649 | 4. Sara b. 1654 |



Part Two

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- V. Signers of the Oath of Fidelity: 1648**
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- VII. Owners of Oxen: 1649**
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I

FIRST SETTLERS of SPRINGFIELD

The trading post established by Pynchon's group was called Agawam after the local Indian tribe. Agawam was settled in 1636. The Puritans of New England originally called the area around Springfield the "Agawam Plantation". In 1633-34 a smallpox epidemic spread death throughout the New World and the Agawam Indians did not escape. Fewer than 200 were now living in the Springfield area. The small population of peaceable Indians and the abundant supply of beaver and fertile farmland encouraged Pynchon.

The grant of Longmeadow was part of a deed that covered three parcels of land: the west side of the Connecticut River, the east side from Pecousic Brook north to the Chikuppe River, and the long meadow (Masacksic) from the Pecousic Brook south to Raspberry Brook. Masacksic means the great land or the great meadow. Four fathoms of wampum, four coats, four hatchets, four hoes, and four knives constituted the purchase price of the Longmeadow portion. The agreement was signed by William Pynchon, Henry Smith, John Burr, and eleven Indians who made their marks of arrows, canoes, and feathers to signify their agreement.

An agreement for the settlement of Springfield, dated 14 May 1636, was signed by William Pynchon, Matthew Mitchell, Henry Smith, Jehu Burr, William Blake, Edmund Wood, Thomas Ufford, and John Cable. These men purchased certain lands lying on both sides of the Connecticut River, paying for the same, "*18 fathoms of wampum, 18 coats, 18 hatchets, 18 hoes, and 18 knives.*" Four other men were united with them, but did not sign the agreement. They were: Thomas Woodford; John Reader, Samuel Butterfield, and James Wood. This settlement in the wilderness was not easily accomplished. It is interesting to note that not one of the first adventurers died in Springfield. None but Pynchon left descendants here. Several of them gave up their allotments to the company. This was the case with Blake, Ufford, Mitchell, the two Woods, Reader, and Butterfield. Burr remained here two or three years, and then removed into Connecticut; Cable sold his lot to the town in 1641; Pynchon left in 1652 and his son-in-law, Henry Smith left in 1653. It is possible that most of the first adventurers were gone before **John Harmon** ever arrived.

1. **Mathew Mitchell:** remained only a few months. I could find no information on him.

2. **Henry Smith:** (+10)

BIRTH: 1607/8 at Buckingham, Norfolk, England to ____ Smith and Frances Sanford. After Frances was widowed, she married William Pynchon in Roxbury, MA. Henry is her only mentioned child. On a list of inhabitants of Roxbury, (see Roxbury chapter), dated between 1636 and 1640, there is a Francis Smith. Women named in this list are listed as "Widow ____", but there is no widow in front of Francis' name. Could Frances Sanford have been married to Francis Smith?

MARRIAGE: Anne Pynchon, daughter of William Pynchon.

DEATH: 1 Aug 1681 at Wraybury, Buckingham, England

BIOGRAPHY: Henry was a very religious and well-educated young man. He was involved in the leadership of the community of Springfield probably had enhanced opportunities as both the step-son and son-in-law to William Pynchon. Smith served as a deputy one term; selectman 7 terms. The General Court of Massachusetts appointed Smith the magistrate for Springfield as the successor to William Pynchon, when the latter returned to England; however, Henry soon afterward followed his father-in-law to England. Sometime after her father's banishment from New England, it is stated that his daughter, Anne, wife of Henry Smith, "went crazy."

CHILDREN of Henry and Ann are listed in previous section under Anne Pynchon.

3. **Jehu Burr:** (+21)

BIRTH: 1596 in England (of German descent)

MARRIAGE: Elizabeth Cable, the sister of John Cable, in England 1624.

DEATH: 1671 at Fairfield, CT

BIOGRAPHY: It is supposed Jehu (Jehue Burre) came over in the fleet with Governor Winthrop to New England and was in Boston in 1630. On 19 Oct of that year, he applied to the general court of Massachusetts for the rights

of a freeman and was admitted 18 May 1631. In 1633, he was one of a committee to oversee building a bridge over Muddy and Stone Rivers between Boston and Roxbury. In 1635, his name and that of his wife are mentioned as among the church members of Roxbury, Massachusetts.

In 1635, Mr. Pynchon, Henry Smith, Jehu Burr, and others came to this place, called by the Indians, Agawam, and began to build a house on the west side of the Agawam River in the meadow. The Indians, seeing this, and being perfectly friendly, informed them that the house would be exposed to the flood, and they abandoned it and came and built a house on the east side of the river, probably on the lot afterwards owned by Mr. Pynchon. It is supposed they returned to Roxbury in the fall and returned in the spring.

The Samuel Chapin Genealogy quotes on pg. 309: *“That whereas Mr. William Pynchon, Jehu Burr, and Henry Smith, have constantly continued to prosecute the same, at greate charges and at greate personal adventure, therefore, it is mutually agreed, that forty acres of meddowe, lying on the south of End brooke, under a hill side, shall belonge to the said partys free from all charges forever. That is to say twenty acres to Mr. William Pynchon, and his heyres and assigns forever, and ten acers to Jehue Burr, and ten acers to Henry Smith, and to their heyres and assigns forever, which said forty acers is not disposed to them as any allotment of towne lands; but they are to have their accommodations in all other places notwithstanding.”*

Jehu Burr was a carpenter by trade, but was also appointed by the General Court of Connecticut to collect taxes at Agawam which was under the jurisdiction of Connecticut. He was second wealthiest settler in 1638/9 behind William Pynchon. He served several times on juries in the early days of the colony, the last known being Jan 1639/40. He moved to Fairfield, CT in 1640 and represented that town serving as a representative of the General Court. His son, Jehu, also served many years and from the records, one cannot tell where the father left off serving and the son began.

Jehu Burr was a brother-in-law to John Cable, who was his wife's brother. Cable was one of the first adventurers to come to Springfield. Both men left about the same time to settle in Connecticut. In John Cable's will (1682) , he mentions his kinsmen, Jehu and John Burr--who were sons of this Jehu.

CHILDREN: of Jehu Burr:

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Jehu Burr b. 1625 ; d. 1692
md. Mary or Esther Warde;
Elizabeth Pruddin | 2. John
3. Daniel
4. Nathaniel | 5. Elizabeth b. 1636;
md. Nehemiah Olmstead;
Obadiah Gilbert;
Nathaniel Seeley. |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|

4. **William Blake:** (+25) Born 10 Jul 1594 in England to Giles Blake and Dorothy Tweedy. Returned to Dorchester where he died in 1663. One known son, George Blake.

5. **Edmund Wood:** remained only a few months.

6. **Thomas Ufford:** He came in the LION in 1632. Settled in Roxbury. Removed with Pynchon to Springfield in 1635 and within a few years to Milford. There his wife Isabel Bryan joined the church January 1644/45 and he joined on 11 February 1644/45. His wife died before him and he married 2nd Elizabeth, widow of Nicholas Theale, of Stamford. A daughter, Abigail Ufford, md. Roger Terrell and had 11 children. Thomas died 20 Aug 1660 at Milford, New Haven, CT.

7. **John Cable:** (+15 to -3)

BIRTH: John Cable was born between 1602 and 1620--more likely earlier than later. He is a brother of Elizabeth Cable, who was the wife of Jehu Burr.

MARRIAGE: He married Sarah Burr about 1638. Not sure what Sarah's relationship is to his brother-in-law, Jehu Burr. It is possible that a brother and sister married a brother and sister.

DEATH: He died at Fairfield, CT on 4 Apr 1682.

BIOGRAPHY: In Feb 1638/39, John Cable was the first person chosen and sworn to execute the office of a Constable in the Agawam plantation for a year or till another shall be chosen. The first trial by jury in Agawam was a case that involved John Cable as defendant. John Woodcock complained against John Cable in an action of the case for wages due to him for certain work he did to a house that was built on Agawam side for the Plantation. The jury found for Cable. In Jan 1639, John Cable served on the jury in a slander case of Moxon vs Woodcock; he was again called to jury duty in June 1640. I do not find him in the court records after that time. He removed to Fairfield, CT.

CHILDREN:

1. John Cable born 1640

2. Rebecca Cable born about 1642

8. **Thomas Woodford** (+2)

BIRTH: 1615 at Roxbury, England

MARRIAGE: 4 Mar 1635 at Roxbury, MA to Mary Blott dau of Robert (Thomas) Blott and Susannah Selbee.

DEATH: 6 Mar 1667 at Northampton, MA

BIOGRAPHY: Thomas appears in the Pyncheon Court records on 27 Sep 1659 when Samuel Allin brought charges against John Bliss "*for unjustly stealing away the affections of Hannah Woodford his Espoused wife, Hannah Woodford.*" At the same time, Thomas Woodford, of Northampton, was the defendant in an action of the case for the forfeiting of a bond, with damage to the value of Twelve pounds with Samuel Allen as plaintiff. In both cases, Samuel withdrew his actions before the case went before the jury but was fined 10s for each instance. He was successful in winning the hand of Hannah Woodford after all!

CHILDREN:

1. Joseph b. 1636; d. 1701 md
Rebecca Newell

3. Hannah b. 1642;
md. Samuel Allen

5. Sarah b. 1649; d. 1713;
md. 1. Nehemiah Allen;

2. Mary b. 1638; d. 1684; md.
Isaac Sheldon

4. Thankful b. 1648;
md. John Taylor

2. Richard Burke;
3. Judah Wright
6. Nehemiah b. 1652

No information found on: John Reeder, Samuel Butterfield, or James Wood.

Another Early Settler: (witness of the deed with the Indians)

Joseph Parsons: (-3)

BIRTH: Christened 25 June 1620 Beaminster, Co. Dorset, England, son of William Parson and Margaret Hoskins.

MARRIAGE: He md. Mary, daughter of Thomas Bliss and Margaret (Hulins), in 1646. Joseph's wife outlived him by 19 years, dying Jan 29, 1712. Her mother was known as Widow Bliss on Springfield records.

DEATH: "*Cornet Joseph Parsons was sick and died Oct. 9, 1683.*" Joseph Parsons had an estate valued at L2088, the second largest inventory in Hampshire County in the seventeenth century.

BIOGRAPHY: Agawam was purchased from the Indians. In New England Historian & Genealogical Register, Vol 1 is an interesting notation regarding Joseph Parsons, an early settler: "Joseph appears as a witness to the deed from the Indians of the lands of (Springfield) to William Pyncheon and others-Joseph Parsons did at a Court in Northampton, holden March, 1662, testify that he was a witness to a deed of the lands at Springfield, and a

bargain between the Indians and Mr. Pynchon, dated 15 Jul 1636, for 18 fathoms of wampum, 18 coates, 18 hatchets, 18 hoes, 18 knives." Joseph was at Springfield in 1636, where he probably remained until 1655, in which year he removed to Northampton. Joseph Parsons began as a fur trader/merchant agent of the Pynchons. On 24 Aug 1657, John Pynchon agreed with Joseph Parsons for the trade of land in Northampton up the River for the sum of twelve pounds to be paid in beaver. As soon as the town was incorporated, he was elected Townsman though he subsequently paid the town 20 shillings not to elect him to any office during the second year of its incorporation. He was the principal founder of Northampton, was extensively engaged in the fur trade, and acquired a large estate. In an agreement of 24 Aug 1657, John Pynchon gave Joseph Parsons the privilege of trading furs at Hadley and further up the Connecticut River. Pynchon promised to buy all of Parson's furs and to supply him with trading cloth at a stated price. They resided in Northampton 1656 - 1679, in which year they returned to Springfield. Joseph Parson's land in Springfield was between Margaret Bliss, His mother-in-law, and Jonathan Taylor.

Mary (Bliss) Parsons apparently was high handed and haughty. Her speech was "*forcible and she had domineering ways*". When they lived in Springfield, Mary walked around at night, and exhibiting other odd behavior. She would fall down, dead in her tracks and wake up flailing around and not know where she was. (Today she probably would be diagnosed with epilepsy or sleep walking, but in those days was thought to be a witch.) After moving to Northampton, stories began to circulate about Mary from a visitor from Springfield. Before long, Mary was tried for witchcraft. After her acquittal, Joseph sued for slander the woman most responsible for spreading the rumors about his wife.....that woman was Sarah Bridgeman, who was arrested, fined 10 pounds, and ordered to retract her statements. The bitterness continued to simmer between the Parsons and Bridgeman families and flared up again in 1672 when Sarah's daughter died after only 2 years of marriage...Sarah had been dead for two years when the bereaved bridegroom seized the chance to accuse Mary (Bliss) Parsons of witchcraft for a second time. Mary was in Boston prison for 3 years before she was brought to trial. She spoke on her own behalf and was acquitted. To her credit she lived out her life in Springfield, where the accusation originally took place.

CHILDREN: of Joseph Parsons and Mary Bliss

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph md. Elizabeth Strong | 6. David |
| 2. John md. Sarah Clarke | 7. Mary md. (1) Joseph Ashley |
| 3. Samuel | (2) Joseph Williston |
| 4. Ebenezer--first white child born in Northampton-- | 8. Hannah md. Rev. Pelatiah Glover |
| killed by Indians in 1675; | 9. Abigail md. John Colton |
| 5. Jonathan | 10. Hester md. Joseph Smith |



II 1638/9 Taxation of Agawam Residents

In 1638/9 there were at least fifteen men in Agawam. These men were taxed forty-one pounds sterling (agreed upon 13 Jan 1638/9) to meet the expenses of building a residence for their minister, Mr. Moxon. Two known residents are missing from the list. They are Mr. Moxon and Henry Gregory. As indicating the relative wealth of the settlers, William Pyncheon paid out 21 pounds, Jehu Burr, 7 pounds, Henry Smith 5 pounds, John Leonard 2 pounds, Thomas Mirack 1 pound; and the others gave the remaining five pounds.

John Searle	Thomas Horton	Thomas Mirack (1 pound)
John Leonard (2 pounds)	Robert Ashly	John Woodcock
Richard Everit	John Alline	John Burt
Henry Smith (5 pounds)	Jehu Burr (7 pounds)	William Pyncheon (21 pounds)
John Cable	(Mr. Moxon)	(Henry Gregory)

Of these 15 men, the following 11 have not been previously identified:

1. John Searle:

MARRIAGE: Sarah Baldwin--daughter of Richard Baldwin and Isabel Harding.

DEATH: 11 Aug 1641. Will of John Searles in 1641: *"I give to my brother-in-law, William Warrener, (who was married to his sister, Joanna) my best coate and my cullored hat; and whereas in some recokonings betwixt him and me he owes me betwixt three and four poundes; if he pay fortie shillings thereof I am content that all the rest shall be remitted; The rest of my estate I divide betwixt my wife and my child equally."* John Searles will also mentions "Timothy Baldwin, my brother." According to the Pyncheon Court Record, Timothy Baldwin was from Milford.

BIOGRAPHY: The widow of John Searle later married Alexander Edwards of Springfield. The last will and testament of John Searles was recorded on 20 Apr 1642, in conjunction with the antenuptial agreement between widow Searles and Alexander Edwards recorded on the same date. This agreement was to protect the legacy of the child, John Searles. It is a very large estate valued at over 101 pounds. John Searle's land was between John Stebbins and Thomas Cooper. John Searle served on a jury in 1639: George Moxon vs. John Woodcock. He was the constable in 1640 and ordered to put John Woodcock into prison or irons until he settle the slander case with George Moxon.

CHILDREN of John Searle and Sarah Baldwin:

1. Joanna Searle b. 1640; not mentioned in father's will; she probably died as an infant.
2. John SEARLE Jr. b. 1641

2. John Leonard: (+2)

BIRTH: John Leonard was born abt 1615 at Pontypool, Mommoth, Wales, son of Thomas Leonard. John's paternal grandparents were Samson Leonard and Margaret Fiennes who md. in 1564 John Leonard's great-grandmother was **Elizabeth Harmon** born 1520 at Elam, Crayford, Kent, England; Great-grandmother, Elizabeth, married a John Leonard abt 1538, at Knole, Kent, England. I think it is highly probable that there could be a relationship with **John Harmon** as their families appear to have had quite a bit of interaction in Springfield.

MARRIAGE: John married Sarah Heath (Heald, Healey) daughter of John Heath and Dorothy Royle. 12 Sep 1640.

DEATH: John Leonard was killed by Indians in 1676. Administration of his estate was granted to his widow, Sarah. His estate was valued at L190. The agreement between the heirs names sons Joseph, Benjamin, Abel and Josiah Leonard; John Keep, and Samuel Bliss. His widow remarried in 1677 to Benjamin Parsons (Benjamin was the father of Sarah Parsons who married James Dorchester. James was the son of **Anthony Dorchester** who married the Widow of **John Harmon**.) and again in 1690 to Peter Tilton of Hadley. She died in 1711.

BIOGRAPHY: He was a Springfield proprietor in 1638; and served many times as a town officer. On 3 Aug 1643,

John Leonard was sworn in as Constable of Springfield. On 13 Feb 1644, Samuel Chapin was sworn as Constable in the place of John Leonard “*who was put out of his place as a mark of disfavor for swearing to a lie in the evidence he gave between Thomas Merik and Robert Ashley.*” By the following year, John was serving as a juror again. His sons appear several times in various court proceedings. On 15 Dec 1657, John Leonard sold Pynchon his four oxen in payment of a debt-- only he requested of Pynchon that he be able to use the oxen for two years prior to turning them over to him, to which Pynchon agreed. On 14 Jan 1666, nine years later, Pynchon received the cattle to cover the said debt.

John Leonard’s land was bordered by Robert Ashley and Thomas Merick. The latter sued John Leonard in 1664 for letting his cattle loose in the common corn field and was awarded five bushels of Indian corn. **Anthony Dorchester** purchased land from Abel Wright (his son-in-law) on Jan 4, 1661, three acres of Meadow lying over Agawam River, bounded by John Leonard south east, & **Anthony Dorchester**’s own land on ye Northwest. Occupations: farmer, occasional laborer for Pynchon.

John Leonard sat next to **John Harmon** in the 3rd Seate in the Meeting house for church services. Also in the 3rd seat were: Thomas Stebbins, Miles Morgan, Ben Muns and **Anthony Dorchester**. A close association with **Elizabeth Harmon** (later Dorchester) continued by Sarah Leonard after the death of her husband. In fact, Sarah married Benjamin Parsons, which made her a (step) mother-in-law to James Dorchester who married Benjamin’s daughter, Sarah. **Elizabeth Harmon Dorchester** and Sarah Leonard Parsons thus shared step-grandchildren!

From town records, it appears that John Leonard may have had a son, John, who lived to adulthood and possibly married Johan Prichard, daughter of Nathaniel, who was **John Harmon**’s neighbor. On the lists of his children, however, I do not find this John. Since other town records claim that Prichard’s daughter married John Lombard, I am assuming it was Lombard and not Leonard.

CHILDREN of John Leonard and Sarah Heath:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. John b. 1641; d. 1648 (6y 10m) | 6. Martha b. 1649;
md. Benjamin Waite | 11. Deborah b. 1663;
md. ____ Loof |
| 2. Joseph b. 1643; d. 1643 (3d) | 7. Lydia b. 1650;
md: (1) John Dumbleton; | 12. Rachel b. 1665;
md. Thomas Hancock |
| 3. Joseph b. 1644;
md. (1) Mary Fellows;
(2) Elizabeth (Livermore) Lyman; | (2) Joseph Bedortha | 13. Josiah b. 1658;
md. Sarah Dumbleton |
| (3) Ann (Newberry) Ford; | 8. John b. 1652; d. 1662 (9y6m) | 14. Hannah b. 1659;
md. Daniel Denton |
| (4) Rebecca Dumbleton; | 9. Benjamin b. 1654;
md. Sarah Scott | 15. Rebecca b. 1661;
md. (1) Thomas Miller
(2) Samuel Billings |
| (5) Margaret; | 10. Abel b. 1656;
md. Mary Remington | |
| (6) Sarah | | |
| 4. Sarah b. 1645; md. John Keep | | |
| 5. Mary b. 1647; md. Samuel Bliss | | |

3. **Richard Everit:**

MARRIAGE: 1643. Mary Winch in Springfield. Hotten's list of Emigrants says she came at the age of 15, in 1634 with Rowland Stebbins.

DEATH: 3 Jul 1682

BIOGRAPHY: On 3 Jan 1639, it was agreed that William Pynchon, Jehu Burr, Henry Smith, John Cable, Richard Everett, and Thomas Mirick should set the bounds of the Plantation up the river on both sides of it. There was

a court case in 1640 involving Richard Everitt and bringing home of pigs. Apparently he had authority to pay those who brought in the pigs and William Warriner complained against Henry Gregory for making false claims to get more money paid out by Everitt. Gregory was ordered to reimburse Warriner.

When Henry Gregory, the first owner of the present court square, submitted his "chapman" (buyer) in the person of Richard Everett, on 24 Jan 1642, the selectmen objected and the estate passed into the hands of Thomas Stebbins, who continued to abide there until his death. Everett had been an inhabitant of Springfield from almost the beginning and there is no mention of the reason for the objection. Not long after the objection, he returned to the eastern part of the colony and settled in Dedham where he was a prominent citizen and the ancestor of many who bare his family name in that part of MA.

CHILDREN of Richard and Mary according to the First Families of Springfield:

Sarah, b 12 Apr. 1644	Ruth, b 14 Jan. 1654
Abigail, b 19 Nov. 1647	Jedediah, b 11 July 1656
Israel, b 14 July 1651	

Burt's History of the First Century of Springfield gives six children by a previous marriage.

John	Samuel
Israel, d 1646	Sarah, d 1641
Mary	James, d 1643

4. Thomas Horton:

MARRIAGE: Mary Eddy; she married 2nd: Robert Ashley.

DEATH: In September, 1640, Thomas Horton is mentioned in some court cases. On 9 Oct 1640, a Widow Horton is charged with selling her husband's guns to the Indians.

BIOGRAPHY: Thomas Horton witnessed the Indian deed in 1636. He served as a witness in the slander case of Moxon vs Woodcock in Jan 1639. In December 1639, William Pynchon complained against Horton for taking three boards from the mill to his home; Thomas Merick sued Thomas Horton for "*three boards that he said Merick wants*" and was awarded 3 shillings. In February 13 1639/40, Thomas Horton complained against Thomas Mericke in an action of the case for "*not doinge a sufficient dayes worke for the wages of a day*". The said Thomas Horton "*Complaines against Thomas Mericke in an action of the case for taking away certaine planks or boardes.*" Thomas Horton also complained against Thomas Mericke in a case for felling of two trees in the lot of Thomas Horton.

: When Robert Ashley married Widow Mary Horton, he agreed to give her two young sons 15 pounds each when they reached the age of 21 in return for her signing over to him her estate valued at 47 pounds. He also promised to put them out as apprentices when they were 13 or 14 years old. On 7 Aug 1641, in court we read: "*Know all men that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended between the widow Horton and Robert Ashley both of Springfield: That the said widow Horton....doth set over her house and house lott...etc.....into the hands of Robert Ashley for the use and behafe of her two sonns one sucking and the other about Three years ould called Jermy to be paid to them....when they shall come to the age of Twenty and one yeares:*"

CHILDREN:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Jeremiah (Jermy) b. 1638 ; md. Ruth Ely and Mary
——. | 2. John b.1640. (Changed name to Holton) |
| | 3. Daniel |

5. Robert Ashley:(-3)

BIRTH: 1620

MARRIAGE: 24 Dec 1641 to Mary Eddy Horton. She had two children by Thomas Horton when she married Robert Ashley: (See Thomas Horton)

DEATH: When he died, Robert Ashley's estate was appraised at 492 pounds, a considerable amount for those days. He died on 19 Sep 1683; In his will, he bequeathed: *To wife, Mary, sons David, Jonathan, and Joseph; grandson John; son John Root.*

BIOGRAPHY: The first record of Robert was on 13 January 1638, when a subscription of 40 pounds was made among the thirteen families of Springfield to build a house for the minister, Robert's share was one pound. He was granted land in Springfield on 5 January 1640, which was situated between Widow Searle and John Dibble. He was granted numerous parcels of land after that and was the fifth largest landholder in the area. He was the keeper of the ordinary in 1646 and served as a town officer. In August of 1641, Robert Ashley was sworn as Constable of Springfield. He served as a selectman for ten terms. He held numerous offices: fence viewer 1646-50, highway surveyor 1651-57, selectman 1653-1665 (chairman 1657), constable 1659.

Goodman Robert Ashley worked as a farmer, sawyer, carter, and horse trader, and was often employed by Pynchon. He was active in church affairs and sat in Pew # 1 which was reserved for people of great importance. In 1660, Robert was chosen Sealer for weights and measures for the Town of Springfield for the coming year. Robert made his mark when signing any paper, but Mary could write fairly well for that time.

Occupations: farmer, sawyer, horse trader. On 12 Nov 1663, Ashley was indebted to John Pynchon for L11.0.0 for "*his pt of the land at Westfield.*" On 18 Apr 1668, John Pynchon credited him for "*all your land at Westfield and the sawing of 200 of board L35.0.0.*"

The colonists were a litigious group, and Robert was involved in the following cases:

December, 1640, he sold his canoe to outside parties against the law of the plantation;

February, 1641, he sued John Woodcock for not delivering a gun he had paid for; he petitioned the commissioner because a Nepannett Indian killed his horse;

In May 1649, Robert Ashley and James Bridgeman shared a team of oxen that were kept over the River without a keeper. They were fined one bushel and a half of wheat for so doing. In September, 1659, he complained against Richard Fellows for detaining his sword; September, 1660, Miles Morgan sued him for wrongfully impounding his swine;

1665 Robert was fined for not being at the town meeting; 1667 and he was fined twenty shillings for refusing to serve as selectman. Rev. George Moxon sued John Woodcock for slander in January 1640. There were so few men in the plantation that Robert Ashley was both a witness for Moxon and on the jury. Robert Ashley's son, Joseph, found himself in court several times. In 1681 he was an attorney in a case. In March 1686 Joseph was bound over and accused of committing fornication with Deborah Miller. Both were found guilty and Joseph was ordered to pay maintenance for the child according to law. Both Joseph and Deborah received fines of the court. When Joseph Ashley was convicted of fornication with Deborah Miller (she later m James Gerald), Joseph's wife, Mary Parsons, dau of Joseph and Mary Bliss Parsons, (whom he married 16 Oct 1685, six months before the illegitimate child, Jabez Miller, was born on 16 Apr 1686) applied for divorce. They became reconciled through the exertions of mutual friends.

In 1646 Ashley was granted land on the Mill River on condition that he would keep an ordinary (tavern). So, Robert Ashley and his wife were known as "*Keepers of the Ordinary.*" The Keeper of the Ordinary was responsible for keeping a house for common entertainment and was an office to which one must be chosen by the town. Only the best men were selected as tavern keepers. The court sent a restraining order forbidding them to sell wine or strong waters to the Indians. However, they were allowed to sell to the English. (1655). He resigned in 1660. Robert Ashley's land bordered Francis Ball and John Leonard.

7 Nov 1647, at a town meeting, it was voted as follows: *"It is agreed that those who will joyne to make a cartway over ye meddow against Robert Ashley's shall have liberty to barr up ye Cartway, and to take 4 pence per load of any others that shall cart over said way, who have not joyned in making of it. Those who have given their names to make ye cartway are as followeth: Thomas Merrick, Thomas Stebbins, James Bridgeman, John Clarke, William Warriner, Rowland Stebbins, Samuel Wright, Samuel Marshfield, Widow Ball."*

In 1671, a young servant of Robert Ashley, Katharine Hunter, about 14 years of age, departed from her master's service unlawfully on two occasions and gave as her reason that her dame gave her a blow or two with her hand. Katharine was committed to the House of Corrections and her father was fined for harboring his daughter and not informing Ashley of her whereabouts.

CHILDREN: Robert Ashley and Widow Mary Horton:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. David b. 1642 (twin) | 4. Jonathan b. 1645; md. Sarah Wadsworth |
| 2. Daughter b. 1642 (twin died shortly after birth) | 5. Sarah b. 1648 |
| 3. Mary b. 1644; md. John Root | 6. Joseph b. 1652; md. Mary Parsons |

6. **John Alline** (Allen, Allin):

A Mr. John Allin of Hartford, (son of Matthew) married Hannah Smith at Springfield on the 19th of 9th month 1651. Hannah was the daughter of Henry Smith and Anne Pynchon and granddaughter of William Pynchon.

7. **Thomas Mirack** (Merick, Merrick, Mirick, Mirack): (-3)

BIRTH: Abt 1620 to John Meyrick and Dorothy Bishop at St. David's, Pembrokeshire, Wales.

MARRIAGE: Sarah Stebbins, daughter of Rowland Stebbins, on 14 Sep 1639 at Springfield.

Thomas married second: Elizabeth Tilley on 21 Oct 1653 at Springfield

DEATH: Died 1690--about 70 years old.

BIOGRAPHY: Four Merrick brothers William, James, John, Thomas, and possibly a sister Sarah, arrived in Charleston, Massachusetts, on the "James" in 1636. Thomas went to Roxbury, then was in Hartford, Connecticut in 1638 preparing to visit Agawam, now known as Springfield, Massachusetts. He settled in Springfield where he was one of thirteen men who laid out the plantation bounds in 1638.

Thomas Merick was made a freeman at Springfield; paid taxes 1638. In 1639, he married Sarah Stebbins. (In the will of Rowland Stebbins, Rowland bequeathed to: son-in-law Merrick's three children.) His seat in the meeting house was on the second row, so he must have been an influential man. He helped make allotments of land and build a church, dealt with the Indians, viewed fences, and was a sergeant in the militia. Money was scarce, so he frequently carted goods from Hartford to pay his bill at John Pynchon's store. In 1664 and 1665, Pynchon paid Merrick for carrying down 89 bushels of wheat to Enfield Falls; carrying 180 bushels from the foot of the falls and bringing up one ton of goods and 12 bushels of salt with his team; loaded canoes at the wharf. He was also paid for working 14 days at the Mill.

Thomas took several people to court including his servant, Daniel, a Scotsman, who profaned the Sabbath in idle walking about and not coming to the ordinances of the Lord; and against several for debts owed him--but often he was fined and had to pay the court himself. Some of the lawsuits he was involved in give an interesting insight into the life and times and also his personality. February 13 1639/1640 Thomas Horton complained against Thomas Mericke in an action of the case for *"not doinge a sufficient dayes worke for the wages of a day"*. The said Thomas Horton Complained against Thomas Mericke in an action of the case for taking away certaine planks or boardes. Thomas Horton complained against Thomas Mericke in an action of the case for felling of two trees in the lot of Thomas Horton. For changing of 4 bushells of corne after it was delivered. Thomas Merick complained against John Woodcoke in an action of debt of 2s 6d. Also in another action of the Case for two bushells of corne that was delivered into his possession and about two bushells more that he is to be accountable for.

On 14 November 1639 the most influential man in town, William Pynchon, sued him for "*not delivering back the Boards he lent him.*" The jury decided he should return the boards. In December 1639 Thomas Merick sued Thomas Horton for "*three boards that he said Merick wants*" and was awarded 3 shillings.

In 1648, Thomas was charged of abusing a five or six year old child named Samuel Edwards. Witnesses proved 3 batteries besides vilifying words. He was fined 12 shilling 8 pence in April 1648 for abusing Alexander Edwards' child.

Thomas' daughter Hannah was examined in court and suspected of being with child by fornication, she confessed it was so and on oath accused Jonathan Morgan of having knowledge of her body. Scandalous reports were raised regarding his daughter, Miriam after her death.

Thomas complained against Robert Ashley saying he kept a pig that belonged to Merick; the jury found differently; he complained about Richard Exell for taking tobacco in the street; he was fined for breaching town orders; Widow Margaret Bliss complained about Mirack for not selecting men to arbitrate a difference between her and him concerning ditching and Thomas was fined. He accused Deacon Jonathan Burt of being a lying man and was charged for defaming the Deacon ; When Thomas was serving as constable in 1683/4 he collected the town rates but neglected to collect it of several men and was taken to court for this and required to either collect it or pay out of his own estate.

Serjant Merik was one of those fined 1 ½ bushels of wheat for allowing a team of oxen to run unattended across the river. Mr Smith, Mr. Holyoak and Serjant Merik had teams there of four oxen apiece. He served on several juries including the inquest into the death of the child of Abel Wrights. In the witchcraft trial of Mary Parsons in 1651, Mary implicated Goodwife Merrick and Besse Sewell as witches. He sued John Leonard in 1664 for letting his cattle loose in the common corn field and was awarded five bushels of Indian corn.

In June 1660 Hugh Dudley complained against Thomas Merick "*for not performinge covenante in plowinge up*" a half acre of ground in the previous month at plaintiffs demand as by the covenant presented appears. Dudley pleaded great damages and that he still expected the plowing to be done. The commissioners adjudged that Merick pay ten shillings in damages and also plow up the half acre by the next May. Thomas Merick also filed a complaint against Hannah, wife of Richard Exell in a debt action to collect a debt owed to him by her late husband, Thomas Reeves.

Even his children carried on the heritage of taking people to court quite often. Thomas Merrick's adjoining neighbors were John Leonard and James Bridgeman. Thomas sold his dwelling house and other buildings with land in 1651.

CHILDREN of Thomas Merrick and Sarah Stebbins

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Thomas b. 1641 d. bef 1644 | 4 Mary b. 1647 |
| 2 Sarah b. 1643 | 5. Hannah b. 1649 |
| 3. Mary b. 1645; d. 1646 | |

CHILDREN of Thomas Merick and Elizabeth Tilley:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Elizabeth b. 1654; d. 1659 | 5. Thomas b. 1663 |
| 2. Miriam b. 1656 | 6. Tilley b. 1667 |
| 3. John b. 1658 | 7. James b. 1670 md. Sarah Hitchcock |
| 4. Elizabeth b. 1661 | 8. Abigail b. 1673 md. Gershom Ferry |

8. John Woodcock:

BIOGRAPHY: December 12 1639. *John Woodcock being summoned by warrant to answer Mr. George Moxon in an action of slander for reporting that he tooke a false oath against him: The said John desyred that this difference might be tried by a private hearinge below in the River: Mr. Moxon referred himselfe to the Judgment of the plantation present whether it were fitter to be heard by a private refference below in the River, or tryed here publikly by a Jury. The generall vote of the plantation is that seeing the matter is publike it should be publikly herd and tryed her by a Jury: Liberty is granted to John Woodcoke to produce his witnesses against this day fortnight being the 26 of December. Also at the said tyme John Woodcoke is warned to answer for his laughinge in Sermon tyme: this day at the Lecture. Also he is then to answer his misdemenor [off] idlenesse. The meeting on the 26 of December is deferred till the 2d of January 1639/1640.*

1639/1640. January 2d. *George Moxon complains] against John Woodcoke in an action of slander that he saith that John Woodcoke doth report that he tooke a false oath against him at Hartford and he demandes of John Woodcoke for the said slander] 9£ 19s. The Jury. Henry Smyth, Jehew Burr, Robert Ashly, Thomas Merik, John Searle, Samuell Hubbard. Mr. Moxon produces these witnesses: Thomas Horton, John Cable, Robert Ashly, Henry Smyth, Samuell Hubbard. The Jury find for the Plaintife damages 6£ 13s.*

However, Woodcock did not pay up and was ordered to prison till the debt was satisfied:

To John Searles Constable of Springfield These are in his Majesties name to require you presently upon the receipt hereof That you attach the body of John Woodcoke upon an execution granted to Mr. George Moxon by the Jury against the said John Woodcoke for an action of slander: and that you kepe his body in prison or irons until he shall take some course to satisfie the said George Moxon: or else if he neglect or refuse to take a speedy course to satisfie the said execution of 6£ 13s 4d granted by the Jury January 2d 1639 [1640]. That then you use what meanes you can to put him out to service and labor till he make satisfaction to the said Mr. George Moxon for the said 6£ 13s 4d and also to satisfie yorselfe for such charges as you shall be at for the keeping of his person: And when Mr. Moxon and yourselfe are satisfied, Then you are to discharge his person out of prison: faile not at your perill. Springfield this
5 October 1640 Per William Pynchon

As long as John Woodcock was in Springfield, he was involved in various court cases where his hot temper and challenging personality seemed to get him into trouble.

John Woodcock sold his land on Main Street to Francis Ball, one half acre of which was taken by the town for a burying ground.

9. **John Burt:** No information found. Possibly a brother or relative of Henry Burt.

10. **George Moxon:**

BIOGRAPHY: Reverend George Moxom was a Cambridge graduate--ordained in 1626; he was censured as a puritan by the Bishop of Chester while serving in a Lancaster parish. He was admitted to the Church of Dorchester abt 1636; removed to Springfield where he was the first minister. He was a Freeman; The townspeople built a house for him in 1638. He returned his house and lands to the town in 1652 when he went to England with William Pynchon.

George Moxon was involved extensively in some court records filing charges against John Woodcock for slander--with Woodcock ending up being put into prison. (See summary on John Woodcock.) John Searles appointed Rev. Moxon to be an overseer of his sizeable estate to ensure that it would pass on to his son should his wife remarry. There is no evidence that Mr. Moxon's teachings were not in full accord with the orthodox view of the times; however one wonders what was the occasion of this action, taken 27 Dec 1649: "*It is*

ordered that ye select Townsmen with ye Deacons shall in ye behalfe of the towne draw up and send down to ye elders a letter desiring ye to explain yer cleere meaning of ye votes concerning Mr. Moxon's maintenance." When William Pyncon was banished from the colonies for his religious heresies, George Moxom went to England with him. His reasons could have been religious controversy or perhaps had something to do with the witchcraft craze. His daughters, Martha and Rebecca, were among persons who accused Mary Parsons of witchcraft in 1651. According to a deposition by Symon Beamon, former Pynchon servant, which was made Sept 19, 1656 in Parsons vs Bridgeman. Beamon testifies that *"about the time that witches were apprehended to be sent to Boston, Mr. Moxon's children were taken ill with fits (which we took to be bewitched.)"* (See Hugh Parsons)

CHILDREN of George Moxon:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Martha | 4. Samuel b. 10 Jun 1645 |
| 2. Rebecca | 5. A son b. 19 May 1647. |
| 3. Union b. 16 Feb 1641 | |

11. Henry Gregory:

BIOGRAPHY: Henry served on juries in 1639. In 1640, John Leonard and William Warriner took him to court for *taking more recompense for driving home of certaine stray sowes than his share comes to: and for taking of more pigges with his sows then his share comes to.*

Sept. 24: 1640. *Accordinge to the former order by consent of the plaintife defendant and Jury this day they are all mett to determine the matter of Cheatinge: and Henry Gregory after 14 dayes to bring in what new evidence he can is present to certifie the Jury. The Jury find for the plaintife about the pigg and gave to John Woodcoke in damages Twenty shillings and costes 4s. For the last action about the double ingagment of the hogges we find for the plaintife in damages Two and Twenty shillings and in costs five shillings. Henry Gregory, after the verdict, was much moved and said: I marvill with what consideration] the Jury can give such damages: Seeinge in the case of John Searles I had of him but Twenty shillings for three slanders: and he added: But such Juries: he was about to speake more But Mr. Moxon bid him take heed take heed, and so gave him a grave admonition: presently after the admonition Henry Gregory acknowledged his fault and earnestly craved Pardon and promised more care and watchfulnesse for tyme to come: and so all the Jury acknowledged satisfffaction in hope of reformation.*

In another case where John Woodcock was taken to court by Robert Ashley, Henry's wife was called on to testify: *Goody Gregory hearing him denie that he was paid testified upon oath that she heard John Woodcock say that he did not owe above as 2s 6d in the plantation she said that she replied thus to John Woodcocke that she heard Robert say that John Woodcock ought him between 30 and 40s Then John Woodcok answered that Robert was a pratinge fellow for he had set of his gunn and now he did not owe him past 7 or 8s: Also Henry Gregory testified upon oath that he heard him speak the same to his wife.*

Goody Gregory being accused by oath of John Woodcoke and Richard Williams for swearing before God I could break her head: she did acknowledge it was her great sin and fault and saith she hath bin much humbled for it: She is fined 12d to the pore to be paid to Henry Smyth within a month: or if she doe not she is to sit 3 houers in the stocks.

January the 13. 1641 [1642] *Accordinge to order given by warrant to the Constable: the Jury appointed are present to try the Action that Henry Burt hath laid against Judith Gregory viz Henry Burt Complaines against Judith Gregory in an action of the Case for breach of Covenant in Molestinge him in his daughter Sara[h] Burt. The Jury are Henry Smyth, Elizur Holioak, John Leonard, Samuell Hubbard, Samuell Wright, John Dible. Judith Gregory was 3 tymes called by the Constable to answer the action aforesaid and she appeared not.*

Henry Gregory is the father of Judah Gregory who married Sarah Burt, daughter of Henry and Eulalia Marche Burt. Is Judith his wife or is Judith a mis-translation of the record which should read Judah? Was

there a Henry Jr. who received the grant of land when Henry Gregory was granted 8 rods of land in 1642--the amount of land given to single men.

CHILD: of Henry Gregory: Judah Gregory md. Sarah Burt



III

1642 Planting Ground Granted to:

In January 1642, a second division of planting-ground was decreed. Single persons were to have 8 rods in breadth; married persons ten rods in breadth; larger families to have 12 rods to begin upward at the edge of the hill on Chestnut Street. Following is the list.

John Woodcock, 8 rods	Wid. Searle, 10 rods	Robrt Ashly, 8 rods
John Deeble, 8 rods	Rowl: Stebbins, 10 rods	Tho. Stebbins, 8 rods
Sam Hubbard, 10 rods	Tho. Mirack, 10 rods	Sam. Wright, 10 rods
Hen. Burt, 12 rods	Hen. Smith, 10 rods	Mr. Moxon, 10 rods
Will Warener, 10 rods	Rich. Sikes, 10 rods	Wid. Horton, 10 rods
John Leonard, 10 rods	Hen Grigory, 8 rods	Eliz. Hollyoke, 10 rods

According to the above mentioned formula, the following men were single in 1642: John Woodcock, John Deeble, Henry Gregory, Robert Ashley, Thomas Stebbins. Henry Burt had a large family and the rest of the men were married before January 1642. Two widows, Widow Searle and Widow Horton, received ground at the married rate.

Those not previously identified are:

1. **John Deeble** (Dibble)

Received land at single man rate in 1642. His widow married William Grave of Stamford.

DEATH: July 1646

CHILDREN of John Dibble::

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Abraham (brought to Springfield) | 4. Elizabeth 1645 (born in Springfield) |
| 2. Samuel. (Brought to Springfield) | 5. Sarah 1646 (born in Springfield) |
| 3. Zachary in 1644 (born in Springfield) | |

2. **Sam Hubbard**

Married man by 1642. John Cable and Samuel Hubbard were given power to set out lots in the Plantation on 26 May 1639. He served on several juries in 1639-1640 and 1641. He was an appraiser of Widow Horton's property in 1641 before her marriage to Robert Ashley.

CHILDREN: of Sam Hubbard:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ruth, b 10 July 1640 (First birth on record) | 4. Bethia, (a son), b 29 Oct. 1646. (Bethia was daughter not son, she married Joseph Clarke Jr.) |
| 2. Rachel, b 1 July 1642/3 | |
| 3. Naomi, b 3 Mar. 1643 | 5. Samuel went to Newport. |

3. **Henry Burt** Married man with a large family. (+22)

BIRTH: Abt 1595 at Harberton, Devon, England

MARRIAGE: Married Eulalia Marche 28 Dec 1619 at Dean Prior, Devon, England. She is the

daughter of Richard Marche and Joan Martyn. Eulalia's will dated 27 May 1684.

DEATH: Henry died 1662 at Springfield. His estate was valued at L 182 with L49 in debts owed to him. He gave part of his estate to son, Nathaniel; wished his wife to have the rest.

BIOGRAPHY: Henry Burt lived in Haberton, Devon, England in 1624. He lost his house to fire in Roxbury, MA in 1638 and received compensation for that fire 5 Nov 1638 at Roxbury as recorded in Massachusetts Bay Colony records. This Burt family had moved to Agawam (now Springfield), Massachusetts, by 1640 when the town gave permission for Henry and two others to "*seeke out for ye use each of them a Connoe Tree.*" Henry was a Springfield town officer, 1642. He was on the first committee elected in September 1644 to govern the town and served for ten terms as selectman. Henry was made a freeman in 1648; served as Clerk of the writs from 1649 to 1662 and issued summonses in civil suits, granted writs of attachment, and kept records of births, deaths, and marriages. It is because of the work of Henry Burt that Springfield town records are such a wonderful resource for early vital records. Thanks Henry!

January the 13. 1641 [1642] *Accordinge to order given by warrant to the Constable: the Jury appointed are present to try the Action that Henry Burt hath laid against Judith Gregory viz Henry Burt Complaines against Judith Gregory in an action of the Case for breach of Covenant in Molestinge him in his daughter Sara[h] Burt. The Jury are Henry Smyth, Elizur Holioak, John Leonard, Samuell Hubbard, Samuell Wright, John Dible. Judith Gregory was 3 tymes called by the Constable to answer the action aforesaid and she appeared not.* (Henry's daughter, Sarah, married Judah Gregory.)

He was one of four men who conducted Sabbath services in 1656-1657 in the absence of a minister. Hard money was scarce in those days, and he frequently hauled goods to Hartford to pay his bill at John Pynchon's store. Henry Burt and Nathaniel Ely were assigned to take inventory of **John Harmon's** estate in May 1661.

Henry Burt and **John Harmon** had land grants side-by-side in the planting grounds, meadow, woodlots, and later in Longmeadow.

"There is an interesting story told about Eulalia Marche Burt; that in England she apparently died, was put in her coffin for interment when signs of life were seen and she was resuscitated and recovered, came to New England and live to a great age..." She died in 1684---twenty-two years after Henry's death.

CHILDREN: of Henry Burt and Eulalia Marche

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Sarah b. 1621 md: (1) Judah Gregory;
(2) Henry Wakley | 6. Mary chr 1635 md. William Brooks |
| 2. Samuel b. abt 1623; d. 1625 England | 7. Nathaniel b. 1636 md. Rebecca Sikes |
| 3. Abigail b. 1623 md. (1) Francis Ball
(2) Benjamin Munn (3) Thomas Stebbins | 8. Elizabeth b. 1638 md. Samuel Wright Jr. |
| 4. (Deacon) Jonathan b. 1625 md. (1)
Elizabeth Lobdel (2) Deliverence Lanckton | 9. Hannah b. 1641 md John Bagg |
| 5. David chr. 1629 md. Mary Holton | 10. Dorcas b. 1643 md. John Stiles |
| | 11. Patience b. 1645 md. John Bliss |
| | 12. Mercy b. 1647 md. Judah Wright |

4. **William Warrenner** Married man by 1642.

BIRTH: abt 1582 in England (+35 questionable)

MARRIAGE: He married (1) 31 Jul 1639 Johanna Searle. (See will of John Searle)

He married (2) 2 Oct 1661 Elizabeth Gibbons Hitchcock, widow of Luke Hitchcock.

DEATH: 1676 in Springfield. If the approximate birth age is correct, which I doubt, he would have been 94 years old at his death.

BIOGRAPHY: William Warriner (Warrenner) was an early settler of Springfield, where he served as constable, surveyor, selectman, and tithingman. He was made a freeman (or voter) in 1638. William was fined in 1640 for selling his canoe to some party outside the "plantation." He owned a considerable part of what is now the

heart of Springfield. William Warrenner's land was bordered by Thomas Stebbins and Nathaniel Sikes

Served as a selectman two terms. Occupation: Teamster, farmer. Carried corn and goods with Goodman Morgan. Journeyed with cart and team; brought salt from wharf and boards, wheat, etc. Indebted to Pynchon.

William Warrenner is mentioned in the will of John Searles in 1641: *"I give to my brother-in-law, William Warrenner, my best coate and my cullored hat; and whereas in some recokonings betwixt him and me he owes me betwixt three and four poundes; if he pay fortie shillings thereof I am content that all the rest shall be remitted; The rest of my estate I divide betwixt my wife and my child equally."* The widow of John Searle later married Alexander Edwards of Springfield.

William was a member of the inquest jury who determined the cause of death of little Ebenezer Harmon who drowned. In 1649, William Warrenner and Samuel Chapen shared a team of oxen that were left unattended across the river and they were fined 1 ½ bushels of wheat for so doing. **John Harmon** also was fined at the same time for leaving his oxen.

William died intestate and the estate was valued at 166 pounds and included 56 pounds worth of clothing and books. Division of his estate made by agreement 27 Sep 1676, between the widow, Elizabeth, and his children: James and Joseph W. and Thomas Noble. His widow, Elizabeth, and his children agreed that she would have one third of his estate during her lifetime plus 15 pounds and she would live in the home.

CHILDREN of William Warriner and Johanna Searle:

1. James b. 1640; md. (1) Elizabeth Baldwin;
(2) Sarah Alvord; (3) Mary Stebbins
3. Joseph b. 1644 md: (1) Mary Montague
(2) Sarah Collins
2. Hannah b. 1643; md. Thomas Noble
5. **Widow Searle.** She was Sarah Baldwin, daughter of Richard Baldwin and Isabel Harding. She md. 1st John Searle and had two children. She was left a widow at a young age. Then married 2nd Alexander Edwards by whom she had 8 more children. See writeups on her husbands for more detail.

6.. **Rowland Stebbins** (+25) Married man by 1642.

BIRTH: Rowland Stebbins was born 5 Nov 1592 at St Marys, Bocking, Essex, England, son of Thomas Stebbins (Stebbing).

MARRIAGE: He married Sarah Whiting 30 Nov 1618.

DEATH: Rowland Stebbins died 14 Dec 1671. He bequeathed: To son Thomas (md. Hannah Wright) and his seven children; to son John (md. Ann Munson) and nine ch; to dau Elizabeth, wife of John Clarke, and her three ch; to son-in-law Merrick's three daus (Thomas Merrick married Rowland's daughter, Sarah); to Mary Munde This is probably Mary Winche); Overseers were friend, John Pynchon; and brother, Robert Bartlett.

BIOGRAPHY: He came to New England in the Ship "Francis of Ipswich" in 1634. The passenger list names: Rowland, 40; wife, Sarah 43; children, Thomas 14, Sarah 11, John 8, Elizabeth 6. Also with the Stebbins family was Mary Winche age 15. The Ancestral file lists Mary Winche as a daughter of Rowland and Sarah. I wonder if Sarah had a previous marriage. This family first settled in Roxbury, then went to Springfield probably the following year with Pynchon's group. Rowland was a proprietor at Springfield in 1641. His wife, Sarah died in 1649 and after her death, Rowland moved to Northampton (after 1664).

Occupation: farmer, laborer. Worked for Pynchon in the early 1650s. Rowland Stebbins home lot adjoined neighbors Morgan Johns and Samuel Wright. His meadow land adjoined James Osburn and Samuel Wright.

CHILDREN: Rowland Stebbins and Sarah Whiting:

1. Thomas b. 1620; md. (1) Hannah Wright;
(2) Elizabeth Wright; (3) Abigail Burt
2. Sarah b. 1623; md. Thomas Merrick
3. Elizabeth b. 1624; d. 1625

4. John b. 1625; md. (1) Mary Anne Munson;
(2) Abigail Bartlett
5. Elizabeth b. 1628; md. John Clark
6. Editha b. bef 1630; md (1) Robert Day;
(2) Elizur Holyoke

8. **Richard Sikes**: Married man by 1642. [Website: <http://home.cfl.rr.com/dot/sykes.html>]

MARRIAGE: Phebe

DEATH: He died in Springfield in 1676; his estate was valued at L154.

BIOGRAPHY: Came from Dorchester in 1639. Made a freeman 13 May 1640. Served as a Selectman for 2 terms. Occupations: Farmer, carpenter, miller. He made a plow for Pynchon; made the meetinghouse stairs, the window, and the ladder in the bell tower. On 17 Jan 1664/5, John Pynchon agreed with Richard Sikes *to tend my Mill by well and careful grinding all corn that shall be brought to it for one year for which he was to have one half the tole and allow Pynchon the other half. He is to mend cogs and rounds and buckits and take care of the stopping breeches, scouring, etc.* Sikes also rented land and oxen from Pynchon.

The town record of 10 Feb 1653 states: *Richard Sikes hath covenanted to ring the Bell and to sweep the meetinghouse according to former terms, namely 12d the week, provided he will have his liberty to leave the work at a months warning. His pay to be payed halfe merchantable Indian corne and halfe merchantable wheat, to be payd at one entire payment at the end of June next, ending the date hereof, but if he leave the work after the payment is made he is to abate 1 shilling the week. There is granted to Richard Sikes for ringing the Bell for marriages and Burials 1 shilling a time. This pay to be payd by those who shall imploy him for such service.* He continued to serve the town in this office for several years, for which he received 52 shillings a year. All four sons swore allegiance at Springfield, Mass. on December 31, 1678 or the next day.

In the will of Benjamin Cooley he mentions that he is leaving land to his son, next to "Cousin Sikes" land. The surname of Benjamin's wife Sarah is also not known so, Phoebe could be Benjamin's sister, Sarah and Phoebe could be sisters, or Sarah could be Richard's sister. Further investigation is needed to prove or disprove these possibilities. Eleanor Rue has written an article "Did Benjamin Cooley's Sister marry Richard Sikes of Springfield, Massachusetts, proving both born Tring, Hertford, England?"

CHILDREN of Richard Sikes and Phebe

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Rebecca b. 1640; md. Nathaniel Burt. | 4. Nathaniel b. 1646 |
| 2. Experience b. 1642; d. young | 5. Victory b. 1648; md. Elizabeth Burt |
| 3. Increase b. 1644; md. Mary Warriner | 6. James b. 1651 |

Is there also a daughter, Mary, who md. David Warriner, brother of Mary Warriner?

7. **Thomas Stebbins** (-3) Single man in 1642.

BIRTH: abt 1620 in England, son of Rowland Stebbins and Sarah Whiting.

MARRIAGE: (1) Nov. 1645 Hannah Wright, dau of Deacon Samuel Wright; She d. Oct 16, 1660—leaving twin infants. (2) Elizabeth Wright (not mentioned in Stebbins Genealogy by Greenlee) Also not a daughter to Samuel Wright—but could be a daughter-in-law; (3) 14 Dec 1676 Abigail Burt Ball Munn, dau of Henry Burt and Eulalia; widow of Francis Ball and Benjamin Munn.

DEATH: He died in Springfield in 15 Sep 1683; his estate was valued at L294.

BIOGRAPHY: Served as selectman 3 terms; lieutenant in the militia. Occupation: tailor, farmer, laborer. *Stebbins carried a load to lower warf; mended clothes, dressed beaver, made petticoats for John Pynchon's maid, Miriam Wait and also for Pynchon's wife; made stockings, worked at the mill and made ditches on the town*

lot. Leased land from Pynchon and used Pynchon's bull as a stud. In 1645, Thomas Cooper, a selectman, made this entry in the town book regarding land: *"It was voted that Thomas Stebbins and Benjamin Munn should have use of the trayining place for pasture for the term of ten years, for certayne, and for the term of their own personal living, if they live longer, upon condition that they keepe it cleare of offensive matter, as wood and brush, or the like and they are now to sow it with English grass seed."* This lot was used for exercising the military company and for a burying ground for about 200 years.

In 1647, at a town meeting, it was voted as follows: *"It is agreed that those who will joyne to make a cartway over ye meddow against Robert Ashley's shall have liberty to barr up ye Cartway, and to take 4 pence per load of any others that shall cart over said way, who have not joyned in making of it. Those who have given their names to make ye cartway are as followeth: Thomas Merrick, Thomas Stebbins, James Bridgeman, John Clarke, William Warriner, Rowland Stebbins, Samuel Wright, Samuel Marshfield, Widow Ball."*

2 Feb 1655, Land was purchased by the town of Thomas Stebbins and Francis Ball for a burying ground; 1 ½ acre from Stebbins and 1 acre from Ball.

CHILDREN of Thomas Stebbins and Hannah Wright:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Samuel b 19 Sep 1646; md 1. Joanna Lamb; 2 nd . Abigail Brooks. | 7. Benjamin, born 11 Apr 1658; md 1 st . Abigail Denton; 2 nd Mary (Graves) Ball. |
| 2. Thomas b 31 Jul 1648; md Abigail Munn. | 8. Hannah b 1 Oct 1660; died aged 17 years. |
| 3. Joseph b 18 May 1650; d 1651. | 9. Rowland b 2 Oct 1660; d 24 Apr 1661. |
| 4. Joseph b 24 Oct 1652; md Sarah Dorchester. | |
| 5. Sarah b 8 Aug 1654; md Samuel Bliss. | |
| 6. Edward b 14 Apr 1656; md Sarah (Graves) Ball. | |

8. **Samuel Wright:** Married man by 1642.

BIRTH: 1613/1614 in: Wrightsbridge, Essex, England son of John Wright and Martha Castell.

MARRIAGE: Margaret Stratton

DEATH: Died in Northampton in 17-Oct-1665. Will dated 1663. Beq. To wife, Margaret, sons James and Judah, with remainder to son Samuel: to daus Mary, Margaret, Hester, and Lydia.

BIOGRAPHY: Samuel came to Springfield, MA with wife and eight children; He was a Springfield proprietor 1641; removed to Northampton; Prior to he that worked as a teamster for John Pynchon. In 1653 paid for carrying wheat to the foot of the falls, for working at the mill and reaping and carrying Indian corn. Samuel was made a Freeman in 1648; Deacon Wright was employed by the town to conduct divine service part of the time in 1656 and 1657 in absence of a minister and was later a Deacon at Northampton, MA.. Samuell Wright and John Herman [Harmon] shared a team of four oxen. Is there a relationship here? Is there a relationship to Abel Wright who married the daughter of **Anthony Dorchester's** second wife--Martha Kitcherell?

CHILDREN of Samuel Wright and Margaret Stratton:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Hannah b. 1626; md. Thomas Stebbins | 7. Esther (Hester) md. Samuel Marshfield |
| 2. Samuel b. abt 1638; md Elizabeth Burt | 8. Lydia md. (1) Lawrence Bliss |
| 3. James b. 1632 md Abigail Jesse | (2) John Norton (3) John Lamb |
| 4. Benjamin | (4) George Colton |
| 5. Judah b. 1642; md. (1) Mercy Burt; | 9. Mary md Jonathan Taylor |
| (2) Sarah Woodford | 10. Helped b. 1664 |
| 6. Margaret md. Thomas Bancroft | |

9. **Widow Horton.** Her name is Mary Eddy. She married 1. Thomas Horton and by him had two children; then md. 2nd Robert Ashley and by him had six children. See histories of Horton and Ashley.

BIRTH: Son of Rev. Edward Holyoke and Prudence Stockton. His father is described by John Eliot as "*Mr. (William) Pyncheon's ancient friend.*"

DEATH: He died 9 Feb 1676 at Springfield in King Phillip's War. His estate was valued at L1271, including 535 acres in the town of Lynn, Massachusetts.

IV 1647 Lot Owners in Springfield

At the beginning of 1647, there were forty-two lot owners in Springfield and six vacant lots. Three men who had been previously prominent in Springfield returned to Connecticut before 1647. They were: Jehu Burr, John Cable, and John Woodcock. These lists were kept by Pynchon and are invaluable to genealogy researchers as they give a good picture of who was there, when, and also the affluence, etc. of the community and individuals. This list is the first list on which my ancestor, **John Harmon**, appears; although I have found reference to land grants prior to this time.

1647 Lot Owners in Springfield, Massachusetts

OWNER:	ACRES				
Rowland Thomas	29½	Francis Ball	33	Nat. Bliss	51 ½
John Stebbins	27½	Robert Ashley	51	Wid. Haynes	40 ½
Miles Morgan	34½	John Leonard	34 ½	Tho. Tomson	56 ½
James Osburne	40	Thomas Miric	46	Rich. Exell	40 ½
Thomas Cooper	41	J. Bridgeman	41	Jos. Parsons	42 ½
William Pynchon	237	Alex. Edwards	60 ½	Jno. Matthews	33
Elizur Holyoke	125	Jno. Clarke	36	Will Branch	27 ½
Henry Smith	148	Widow Debble	22	Geo. Colton	61
Mr. George Moxon	67	Katherine Johns	19	Grif. Jones	36 ½
Samuel Chapen	43	Rowland Stebbins	38 ½	Reice Bedortha	20
Thomas Reeve	32	Samuel Wright	41½	Will. Vahan	6
Richard Sykes	39½	Henry Burt	47½	Benj. Cooly	40 ½
William Warener	40½	Jno. Herman	33	Hugh Parsons	37 ½
Thomas Stebbin	34	Roger Pritchard	28	Jno. Lumbard	25

Those not previously identified include:

1. **Rowland Thomas** 29½ acres owned in 1647. (-4)

BIRTH: abt. 1621.

MARRIAGE: (1) 14 Apr 1647 Sarah CHAPIN, daughter of Deacon Samuel CHAPIN and Cecily Penney. Rowland and Sarah lost at least eight of their children as infants. Sarah d.1684.

DEATH: Died at Springfield 1698; estate valued at L199.

BIOGRAPHY: Rowland Thomas was a Springfield proprietor and town officer.. An Indian broke into Rowland Thomas' house in June 1650 and stole some goods; Rowland served as a juror in several cases; the most interesting being on 27 Dec 1674 as an inquest juror in the case of Abel Wright's 3 or 4 year old child who was found dead. The jury determined that the child "*went out to a sled without the doors and endeavoring to get upon the sled halfe loaden with wood, a log rowled downe on the child and the log falling on the child which was a heavy log, the child thereby came to its end.*" Rowland was chosen a Selectman three times. In 1678 Rowland Thomas, Joseph Bedortha, and John Dorchester built a fortification on the Suffield and Westfield sides of Springfield. Rowland Thomas does not appear on early maps of Springfield. By occupation, he was a teamster and a laborer; carried loads of stone; leveled ground, hauled to Hadley; worked at the mill--especially with stones. Lost his land and house to John Pynchon for debts on 1 Mar 1667/8.

CHILDREN of Rowland Thomas and Sarah Chapin:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph b. 1646; d. 1648 (10 months). | 8. Samuel b. 1662 |
| 2. Samuel b. 1648; d. 1649 (1 year) | 9. Child Thomas b. 1665; d 1661 (0d) |
| 3. Mary b. 1650; d. 1650 (4 days) | 10. Sarah b. 1666 md. James Warriner |
| 4. Joseph b. 1651 md. Mary ____. | 11. Mary b. 1669; d. 1670 (1y) |
| 5. Benjamin b. 1653 md. Anna Belding | 12. Mercy b. 1671; d. 1671 (1m;26d) |
| 6. Josiah b. 1655; d. 1657 (2y2m) | 13. Mercy b. ? ; md. John Bagg |
| 7. Josiah b. 1657; d. 1657 (18d) | |

2. **John Stebbins:** 27½ acres owned in 1647. (-8)

BIRTH: John Stebbins, son of Rowland Stebbins and Sarah Whiting was born 1625/1626 at St. Mary's, Bocking, Essex, England.

MARRIAGE: John, son of Rowland Stebbins, married 17 Dec 1657, Abigail BARTLETT, dau. of Robert Bartlett and Ann Warriner.

DEATH: John died 7 Mar 1678 at Northampton.

BIOGRAPHY: John's father, Rowland Stebbin's will bequeathe: *"To son John and nine children; son Thomas and seven children (Thomas, John's brother, married Hannah Wright 14 Nov 1645.); to dau. Elizabeth, wife of John Clarke and her three children; to son-in-law Merrick's three daughters; to Mary Munde; John Pynchon; and Robert Bartlett."*

John Stebbins was chosen in 1652 and sworn to the office of a Constable in the Town of Springfield for a year. A John Stebbins was bound into court in May 1655 to answer the charge of misbehaving and calling his elderly father an *"Old Foole and uttering other unseemly words towards him."* Under colony laws a disobedient and disorderly child might be punished by whipping of up to ten stripes or fined. In this case John was fined forty pounds but due to lack of evidence, he was released and discharged of his bond. This John is most likely the same John as the one from Northampton who appeared in court 25 Sep 1660 to prosecute Robert Lyman for *"misdeameaninge himselfe towards his, the said John Stebbin's wife: he the said John Stebbins complaynes to this Court for that the said Robert frequentinge the said John's house did use very evil and unseemly behavior towards his wife enticing her several times that he might ly with her, takinge her in his arms and otherwise venting his unchast desires."* Robert Lyman was fined and required to pay Deborah Bartlett and Robert Bartlett for coming as witnesses. These witnesses tie John to the above mentioned Rowland Stebbins--as his daughter-in-law was Abigail Bartlett.

Occupations: farmer, fur trader, laborer. He strung a lot of wampum and sold agricultural produce at John Pynchon's general store even after he moved to Northampton in 1656.

Sergeant Stebbins's lot on the hill was selected for the building of the new meetinghouse in 1674. In exchange he was to have four acres north of Round hill. John Stebbins is not on map of early land owners, but his father, Rowland's land bordered Morgan Johns and John Dibble.

CHILDREN: John Stebbins and Abigail Bartlett:

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Samuel b. 1658 | 5. Mary b. 1666 | 9. Benjamin b. 1674 |
| 2. Abigail b. 1660 | 6. Sarah b. 1668 | 10. Rebecca b. 1676 |
| 3. Thomas b. 1662 | 7. Joseph b. 1669 | 11. Thankful b. 1678 |
| 4. Hannah b. 1664 | 8. Deborah b. 1671 | |

3. **Miles Morgan:** 34½ acres owned in 1647. (close to John's age)

BIRTH: Miles Morgan was from Wales. Migrated to colonies in 1636.

MARRIAGE: (1) Prudence Gilbert in Salem, MA. (See story of their marriage under settlement of Springfield in this book. Is she a sister to Thomas Gilbert?) Md. 2nd Elizabeth Bliss, daughter of Thomas.

DEATH: He died in Springfield in 1699. The inventory of his estate was taken 12 Jul 1699 presented by Jonathan, David, and Isaac; division made to them and their brother Nathaniel. Samuel Terry assented to this in right of their sister, his first wife; his dau. Hannah to have a good cow upon the day of her marriage.

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield proprietor 1645. In 1659/60 Miles Morgan was a selectman of the town; served as a juror several times; served as second Serjeant in the military; sworn as constable in 1671. He served as a selectman five terms. His occupations were teamster, farmer, regularly employed by John Pynchon. In June 1661, he made five voyages down the falls with Ed Foster and Sam Terry (son-in-law) carrying wheat and corn. Carted 142 moose skins; 10 barrels of meat, salt, timber, wheat, etc.

At the time Springfield was sacked and burned by the Indians in King Philip's War in 1675, Miles Morgan served as Captain of the Militia in the absence of Col. Pynchon. Among the killed were his son, Pelatiah age 15; and a son-in-law, Edmund Primgaridays. The houseless townsmen took refuge in a stockade on Captain Morgan's land.

The Morgan family was found in court records several times. Samuel Terry and Isaac Morgan served on watch together in Sep 1676. Lidia Morgan was accused of abusive carriage and reproachful and scandalous speeches toward Joseph Browne. Several more of his children appear in court for various seemingly minor offenses. On 28 Jul 1650 Hugh Parsons and John Lombard testified that they were warding the Sabbath Day and saw Samuel Terry standing with his face to the meetinghouse wall near the corner next to the street chafing his yard to provoke lust at sermon time and because they kept it private, he was given 6 lashes on his bare back privately.

Miles Morgan was involved in two paternity suits: The first in 1673 when Hannah, the unmarried daughter of Thomas Merrick, accused Jonathan Morgan, son of Miles, of the paternity of her child. Jonathan made a stout fight but lost and was ordered by the court to pay 2s,6d. Weekly for the first four years toward support of the child. Eight years later, Lydia, daughter of Miles, worked in the family of Samuel Gaines of Hartford, who became the father of her illegitimate child. The suit brought by Miles resulted in a decree against Gaines of the maintenance of the child. Samuel Terry and his wife were fined in lieu of lashes for abusing each other prior to their marriage.

In 1882 a statue honoring Miles Morgan was erected on Court Square in Springfield by a descendant.

CHILDREN of Miles Morgan and Prudence Gilbert:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Mary b. 1644; md. Edmund Pryngridays | 5. Isaac b. 1652; md. Abigail Gardner |
| 2. Jonathan b. 1646; md. Sarah Cooley | 6. Lydia b. 1652; md. John Peirce |
| 3. David b. 1648; md. Mary Clark | 7. Hannah b. 1656; md. Samuel Terry, Jr. |
| 4. Pelatiah b. 1650; d. 1676 | 8. Mercy b. 1658 |

Child of Miles Morgan and Elizabeth Bliss

1. Nathaniel b. 1671; md. Hannah Bird

4. **James Osburne:** 40 acres owned in 1647..

MARRIAGE: 1645; Joyce Smith

DEATH: His estate was divided by agreement between his sons James and Samuel. His widow married Gregory Gibbs. They were married by Feb 1677 when Charles Ferry purchased land from Gregory and his wife, Joyce, formerly the wife of James Osborn and from her son, James Osborn. This land consisted of a houselot containing two or more acres and bounded on the south and west by **John Harmon** and north by John

Mathews. (Land Records V. 3; p. 188, 316.)

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield proprietor 1646. Left Springfield for Hartford, CT after 1672. Occupation: farmer. On April 25, 1663, John Pynchon let out to James Osborne that house and land which he had that once belonged to the Widow Burt for two years. He was to pay Pynchon L3.10.0 annually. On 16 Nov 1663, John Pynchon and Osborne agreed that if Osborne could pay John Pynchon L10 for four years he could have the farm for his own at the end of that time. However, on 7 Nov 1665, Thomas Powell took over payments from Osborne who was credited with only paying L1.4.5 by the mid 1660s. Osborne was deeply in debt not only to Pynchon, but to others and being unable to meet his obligations, the town intervened. In Feb 1667, the inhabitants of Springfield declared that a mutual agreement that no one would make any more bargains with James Osborne without the consent of two or three of the selectmen if the amount of the bargain was above 10s in value. James Osborne (must be the son, James) had to take Isack Morgan to court to collect a debt owed him in 1685. In 1684, his widow, Joyce, and her husband, Gregory Gibbs, sold land to Charles Fere (Ferry). (Deed B-20. Manwaring's Digest).

CHILDREN of James Osborne and Joyce Smith:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Elizabeth b. 1647; m. Daniel Arnold | 3. James b. 1654; d. 17 Dec 1721 |
| 2. Mary b. 1649; m. Thomas Bracey | 4. Sarah b. 1657; m. Joseph Wright (?) |
| | 5. Samuel b. 1663 |

5. **Thomas Cooper:** (Cowper) 41 acres owned in 1647. (-1)

BIRTH: Thomas Cooper was born abt 1618 at Olney, Buckinghamshire, Eng, son of George COOPER and Rebecca BOSWORTH.

MARRIAGE: Married Sarah SLYE abt 1636/1641 probably at Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts.

DEATH: 5 Oct 1675 Springfield. (See biography for details). His estate was valued at L287.

BIOGRAPHY: He arrived in Boston from England in the ship "Christian" in 1635 and came with John Stiles' company from England to Windsor in 1641 and to Springfield in 1643 where he purchased a home lot 14 rods wide and over 80 rods long for 25 pounds. As a business associate of John Pynchon, Cooper polished and strung wampum, (shell money), by piercing the shells with an awl or drill and stringing the beads and shells in fathoms---the length of outstretched arms---six feet. He was a fur trader, auditor of the selectmen's accounts, a practicing attorney before the county court, a practical farmer and carpenter, a surveyor, and a bone-setter. Goodwife Cooper often assisted Mistress Pynchon.

Thomas was elected to the first town governing committee in 1644 and later was deputy of the General Court. He served as a selectman for 20 terms. Thomas was a brisk, outspoken man, sometimes difficult to get along with, a good fighter, and had great influence with the local Indians. As a fur agent, Cooper was supplied with trading cloth and wampum by John Pynchon to trade for furs with the Indians. On 27 Jun 1652, Cooper received credit for 348 skins of beaver. Cooper's outstanding debts to John Pynchon stood at L1000 on 1 Oct 1656 and he continued to be heavily in debt to Pynchon for the remainder of his life.

In the first election of selectman (administrative board in towns of New England) to be held on 26 Sep 1644, those chosen were Henry Smith, Thomas Cooper, Samuel Chapin, Richard Sikes, and Henry Burt. In 1649, Thomas Cooper shared a team of oxen with Mr. Moxon (who was a Parson in Springfield) and they were fined 1 ½ bushels of wheat for allowing the oxen to be left unattended across the river. In February 1645, he contracted with the town of Springfield to construct the first meeting house, for the price of L80, to be paid in wheat, pork, peas, wampum, debts or labor. The meeting house built was 40 feet in length; 25 feet breadth; 9 feet betwixt joints, double studded with four large glass windows and one smaller window and one large door and two smaller doors. This was to be completed by the 30 Sep 1646. He completed it in less than one month as on 26 Mar 1646 the town acknowledged that Cooper had fulfilled his bargain. By 1647 he owned 41 acres of land for which he was taxed 11 shillings 4 pence. Taxes could be paid in wheat at 3 shillings 10 pence, Indian corn at 2 shillings 6 pence, or peas at 3 shillings per bushel.

Thomas Cooper was a regular customer of the store owned by John Pynchon and at one time his bill amounted to over 681 pounds. He regularly brought in trade goods of beaver, moose, and deer skins traded from the Indians as well as wild honey and performed carpentry work. Thomas was a member of the inquest jury who determined the cause of death of **John Harmon's** son, Ebenezer, who drowned at the age of three.

Originally land in Springfield was bought from the Indians by a committee or agent for the town. Later individuals would sell blankets, food, and tools to the natives on credit with land as mortgage. Thomas had taken a mortgage from Amoacussen, a Woronoco Indian, in 1660 and received an absolute deed in 1664 when Amoacussen failed to pay. Later the sachems Allignot, Neemp, and Wallump claimed that Amoacussen was not the sole owner of the land and the Hampshire court ordered Thomas to pay them 110 fathom of wampum to get clear title. He probably still made money on the deal.

Jonathan Burt and Thomas Cooper were witnesses of the "spoken" desires of Henry Burt prior to his death. (Thomas Cooper may be a brother-in-law to Jonathan. In those days brother-in-law also means his brother by another marriage of a parent i.e. step-brother; or he could be related to Jonathan's wife or married to one of his sisters.) Thomas was an Ensign and Jonathan Burt served as first Corporal in the offices of the trained military band of Springfield. He often served in the capacity of a juror; assisted Benjamin Cooley in taking inventory of Nathaniel Bliss' estate. In 1663 his seat in the meeting house was on the first row, a mark of success and respect.

King Phillip's war broke out and on 4 October 1675, John Pynchon and many of the Springfield men were dispatched to Hadley, Massachusetts, to pursue the enemy. The Agawam Indians living near Springfield had been friendly with the whites, but decided to join Phillip's war of extermination. Toto, an Indian living with a Windsor family, told them of the planned Agawam attack on Springfield. A man was sent to Springfield with the news, arriving in the dead of night, and all the citizens gathered in the three fortified houses in the village.

No attack had come by morning and many thought it was a false alarm. Lieutenant Cooper knew the name of every Agawam Indian - he had dealings with them as an officer of the law, had aided them with loans of seeds or utensils, and did not fear them. He and Thomas Miller rode out to scout the Indian fort. Advancing toward it, they were fired upon and Miller was instantly killed. Lieutenant Thomas Cooper, being very athletic and vigorous, returned to Springfield at a gallop, clinging to his saddle. The horse stopped at the Pynchon house and Thomas fell to the ground dead. This was on 5 Oct 1675. The Indians then attacked the town, burned 33 houses and 22 barns, plundered the deserted houses, but the three houses where the people had fled to were well fortified and few were killed. Major Pynchon with 200 troopers returned at a dead run from Hadley and the Indians retreated with their booty.

CHILDREN of Thomas Cooper and Sarah Slye:

1. Sarah b. 1640; md. Thomas Day
2. Timothy b. 1644; md. Elizabeth Munson
3. Thomas b. 1646; md. Desire LAMBERTON
4. Elizabeth b. 1648; md. Isaac Colton
5. Mary b. 1651; md. (1) Isaac Colton
(2) Edward Stebbins
6. John b. 1654
7. Rebecca b. 1657; md. John Clark
8. John b. 1659

6. **Samuel Chapin:** (Chapen) 43 acres owned in 1647. (+19)

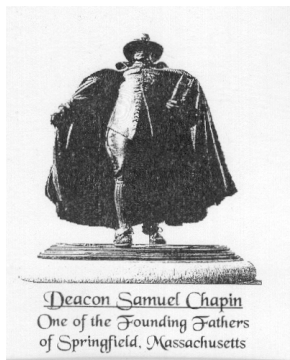
BIRTH: (baptized on) 8 Oct 1598 at Paighton, England, son of John Chapin and Phillipe Easton.

MARRIAGE: Married on 9 Feb 1623/4 in Paighton, England to Cicely Penny born 1601 in Paighton, England, daughter of Henry Penny and Jane Dabinott.

DEATH: 11 Nov 1675 at Springfield, MA. His will Bequeathed to wife, son, Henry and gr. Son Thomas Gilbert, Son Japhet and his wife, Abilene deposited. The widow, Cicely, d. 1682 and she beq to sons Henry; Josiah; Catherine md Samuel Marshfield; Hannah Hitchcock; Henry Gilbert--apprentice to John Hitchcock. (See Rowland Thomas)

BIOGRAPHY: Samuel is supposed to have been a Huguenot, possibly one of about 150 families that reached these shores shortly after the Massachusetts Bay settlement. It is said that Samuel's father fled first to Holland, then France. After marrying Cicely, Samuel went to Dartmouth, England, and migrated with several children to New England, settled first at Roxbury about 1635 and finally 1642 or a year or so later, arrived in Springfield. Was a "Deacon" at time of his marriage in England. Samuel was a farmer; he was a freeman in 1641; town officer 1643; Served as a magistrate and selectman of Springfield government for eleven terms; was the first deacon of the church in 1649 and employed to conduct religious services part of the time 1656-7 when there was no minister in town. Commissioner 1651 and 1660 to purchase lands from the Indians and lay out the towns of Northampton and Hadley.

Feb 1644, Samuel Chapin was sworn as Constable in the place of John Leonard "who was put out of his place as a mark of disfavor for swearing to a lie in the evidence he gave between Thomas Merik and Robert Ashley." After William Pynchon, Henry Smith, Elizur Holyoke, Samuel was the fourth most powerful man in the town of Springfield in 1646.



In Oct. 1675, Deacon Chapin was disabled and one of the few men at Springfield when the news came that King Philip had set apart Springfield to be burned and the inhabitants to be slaughtered. (See Thomas Cooper.) Samuel Chapin's land bordered George Maxon and Richard Exell.

"In 1877 a bronze statue of 'The Puritan' by the famous sculptor Saint Gaudens was presented to the city of Springfield and placed beside the public library on State Street. It was dedicated in memory of Deacon Samuel Chapin, although it is, of course, only an idealized portrait..."

CHILDREN of Samuel Chapin and Cicely Penny:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. David b. 1624 England; md. Lydia Crump | 6. John b. 1632 |
| 2. Catherine, 1626; md. 1. Mr. Gilbert '2. Samuel Marshfield; 3. Rowland Thomas | 7. Honor b. 1636 |
| 3. Sarah md. Rowland Thomas | 8. Josiah b. 1637 England |
| 4. Son (probably born Samuel and a twin) 1630 | 9. Japhet b. 1642, Roxbury, MA md. Abelahah Cooley and Dorothy Root |
| 5. Henry (prob twin to Samuel) 1630; md. Bethia Cooley | 10. Hannah b. 1644. Springfield, MA
--md John Hitchcock |

7. **Thomas Reeve:** 32 acres owned in 1647.

MARRIAGE: He married Hannah Rowe. After Thomas' death, she married Richard Exell on 4 Jun 1651.

DEATH: 1650 or early 1651.

BIOGRAPHY: He owed a debt to Thomas Merrick who sued to collect it after his death.

CHILDREN:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Thomas Reeves b. 1646; md. Rebecca Davis | 3. Mary Reeves b. 1649 |
| 2. Hannah Reeves b. 1648 | 4. John Reeves b. 1651; d. 1652 |

8. **Francis Ball:** owned 33 acres in 1647. (-3)

BIRTH: 1620 in England

MARRIAGE: Married Abigail Burt, daughter of Henry and Eulalia (Marche) Burt,

DEATH: Four years after his settlement in Springfield, he was drowned in the Connecticut River in 1648, leaving his widow with three little children. His widow married Benjamin Munn who continued to reside on her lot until his death.

BIOGRAPHY: When Francis Ball, a blacksmith, arrived in Springfield in 1644 from Connecticut, he bought the improvements of the lot owned by John Woodcock on Main Street. For a burying-ground and training-field, the town took an acre of Ball's lot and an acre and a half of Stebbin's lot for which it gave them in return double the acreage elsewhere. A street had been previously opened from Main Street to the meeting-house, and this was continued two rods wide to the training field. In 1645, Thomas Cooper, a selectman, made this entry in the town book regarding this land: *"It was voted that Thomas Stebbins and Benjamin Munn should have use of the trayining place for pasture for the term of ten years, for certayne, and for the term of their own personal living, if they live longer, upon condition that they keepe it cleare of offensive matter, as wood and brush, or the like and they are now to sow it with english grass seed."* This lot was used for exercising the military company and for a burying ground for about 200 years.

Under the date of 4 Sep 1646: *"A bargaine was driven the day above said betwixt the towne of Springfield and Francis Ball for a Shop for a Smith, which is to be 12 foote wide, 16 foote in length, six foote stud betwixt joynts, a chimny for the forge, runged, to be boarded both roof and sides, to make a doore and windowe in the end, with a beam in ye midst, for which work to be sufficiently accomplished by Sep 28, next, the town doth condition to pay him five pounds wither in wheate at 3s 8d per bushel, or in worke as he shal need it, to be payd in unto him ye 10th March next, at the house of Henry Smith. He doth also agree to find boards for ye covering and sides with nayles and hinges and what he wants else, and he is to bring in his account what boards he useth and what other charges he is at, for which he is to be payd as before in wheate or in worke as they shall agree. It is agreed that his house shall remayne in the hands of the towne till they see cause to dispose otherwise of it."*

CHILDREN of Francis Ball and Abigail Burt:

1 Jonathan b. 1645; md. (1) Sarah Miller
(2) Susanna Worthington

2. Samuel b. 1646/48; md. Mary Graves

9. **James Bridgeman:** owned 41 acres in 1647. (-3)

BIRTH: James Bridgeman was born abt 1620 at Winchester, Hampshire, England.

MARRIAGE: Married Sarah Martha Lyman, daughter of John Lyman and Medad Pomeroy, on 6 Jun 1642 at Hartford, Connecticut.

DEATH: James died 17 Mar 1676 at Northampton. His will bequeathed to children: John, Sarah Tilestone and her son Cornelius; Martha, (wife of Samuel Dickinson), and grandchild, Mary B. His wife, Sarah, died 31 Aug 1688 at Northampton.

BIOGRAPHY: He was a Springfield proprietor 1643 to 1654; 1646 James Bridgeman was selected Constable. In 1649, James Bridgeman was complained of by Hugh Parsons for taking of tobacco in his yard outdoors and was fined ten shillings. Also in 1649 James shared a team of oxen with Robert Ashley for which they were fined 1 ½ bushels of wheat to repay damage when left unattended across the river. In 1652, James was sworn to the office of a presenter for the coming year. James Bridgeman went to Northampton 1654/ 55, but returned to Springfield as in 1661 he was selected as sealer of weights and measures. Bridgeman's land was bordered by Alexander Edwards and Thomas Merick

In 1656, while living in Northampton, his wife, Sarah, was involved in a slander action in the case of Parsons vs Bridgeman –a witchcraft case tried in Middlesex County on

7 Oct 1656. Sarah was required to pay a 100 L bond promising that she would appear in court; however, she did not have the surety and was taken into custody in Northampton as she was weak and with child and unable

to appear in court without hazard to her life. She was accused of slandering Mary Parsons, wife of Joseph Parsons--apparently accusing her of being a witch. [The witchcraft slander case against Mary Parsons could be connected to **John Harmon** IF there proves to be a relationship between the Nathaniel Harmon who married Mary Bliss and the Mary Bliss who married Joseph Parsons and IF anyone ever identifies a relationship between Nathaniel of Braintree and **John Harmon** of Springfield. Such a relationship is not unlikely as John named a son Nathaniel and Nathaniel named a son John. The ancestral file has them as brothers with Francis Harmon as father. My research has led me to believe that is a big fairy tale; I have found NO documentation to that effect. Anyway, claims are made that after Nathaniel died, his widow married Joseph Parsons. Nathaniel was still alive in 1690. This witchcraft case took place in 1656. I do not believe it is the same Mary Bliss. Some researcher did not do their math and that is why there is so much confusion! The purpose of this book is to clear some of that confusion up!]

It is highly possible that this James Bridgeman is an ancestor of Elizabeth Bridgeman who married Nathaniel Harmon III (great-grandson of John) on 6 Dec 1737 in Sunderland, Franklin, Massachusetts. If so, this is the line that Frances Folsom, the wife of Grover Cleveland, one of the Presidents of the United States descends from.

CHILDREN: James Bridgeman and Sarah Martha Lyman:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Sarah b. 1643; md. Timothy Tilestone | 5. Mary b. 1652; md. Samuel Bartlett |
| 2. John b. 1645; md. Mary Sheldon | 6. James b. 1655; d. 1655 (2 weeks) |
| 3. Thomas b. 1648; d. 1648 (1m;13d) | 7. Patience b. 1656; d. 1656 (newborn) |
| 4. Martha b. 1649; md. Samuel Dickinson | 8. Hezekiah b. 1658; d. 1659 (9 mo) |

10. **Alexander Edwards**: owned 60 ½ acres in 1647. (-4)

BIRTH: Christened 18 Mar 1621 at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, London, England. His father was Giles Edwards.

MARRIAGE: Sarah (Baldwin) SEARLE 28 Apr 1642 at Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts. Sarah was the daughter of Richard Baldwin and Isabell Harding. She was the widow of John Searle who died 11 Aug 1641 leaving Sarah with two young children:

1. Joanna Searle b. 1640
2. John SEARLE Jr. b. 1641

DEATH: 4 Sep 1690 at Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts. Will dated 30 Aug 1690. Bequeathed to sons Samuel, Benjamin, and Nathaniel; daughters Mary Field and Elizabeth Clark; also bequeathed to Sarah North, and John and Samuel Davis; wife to be well cared for.

BIOGRAPHY: Alexander was a proprietor of Springfield 1643; town officer. Alexander Edwards went to Northampton in 1654/55. He purchased goods and marketed produce at John Pyncheon's general store even after his departure from Springfield.

CHILDREN: of Alexander Edwards and Sarah Baldwin Searle:

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Samuel b. 1643 | 4. Mary b. 1650 md. ____ Field | 7. Nathaniel b. 1657 |
| 2. Hannah b. 1645 | 5. Benjamin b. 1652 | 8. Elizabeth b. 1659 md. ____ |
| 3. Joseph b. 1647 | 6. Sarah b. 1654 | Clark |

11. **John (Jno) Clarke**: owned 36 acres in 1647 (-9)

BIRTH: abt 1626

MARRIAGE: He married Elizabeth Stebbins (daughter of Rowland) 2 Mar 1647.

DEATH: John Clark died 1684; bequeathed to wife, son John, daughters, Sarah Barnard and Mary Morgan. Son-in-law, David Morgan deposed (intentionally left out of the will). His estate was valued at L315.

BIOGRAPHY: He had to leave Springfield to burn tar in 1646. Town officer. In 1648, John Clarke was called before the court because he had left a carrion (putrefying body of a dead beast) by the brook side which was very offensive. John Clark pled that he had buried it; but when his attention was called to it that pigs had rooted it

up and upon first notice he removed it.

John Clarke's land adjoined Alexander Edwards and John Dibble. Occupations: farmer, teamster, agricultural laborer. Brought up salt from Enfield Falls for Pyncheon; worked on ditches and at the mill trench. He rented land from Pynchon to grow corn on and he was in debt to Pynchon in 1663 at the rate of 20 pounds sterling for goods.

John Clarke served on the inquest jury to determine the cause of death of little Ebenezer Harmon who drowned in the brook. He also served on the inquest jury regarding the death of Abel Wright's young child.

His daughter, Sarah, was found in the court records: In Feb 1670/1, Richard Barnard was discharged from prison so he could marry Sarah Clark, and then bound over to appear at the next county court where the offenders were fined forty shillings apiece as This Court: *"being sensible of disorders growing more and more upon us and is special of the gross miscarriages of the said Richard and his wife Sarah doth fine them each..."*.

At county court in September 1686 Richard Waite of Springfield was bound over to answer for his offense of fornication with the widow Sarah Barnard and appeared with the widow whom he had married in the interim. The court being *"sensible of the growth and increase of this abominable sin and desirous to use all wayes to curb the further breakings out of such provoking sins"* required the offenders be well whipped or pay a fine of five pounds.

This same daughter, Sarah Barnard, had an experience in January 1686 that is found in the Pynchon court records: *"Widow Sarah Barnard ...(said) she was much afrighted by a mans coming into her house in the night when she was in bed and lying downe on her bed whereupon she gat up and called when presently Thomas Lamb came in and speaking to him he gave no answer to said Lamb till he pulled him about to the fire and saw that it was Samuel Owen. So, Thomas Lamb run to David Morgan and called him and presently returned. Samuel Owen had not stirred. I discerned that he had been drinking and smelled of it. Thomas asked Samuel, "What will your wife say to this that you came to another woman's bed?" Goodwife Barnard says she judged he was in drink because he came into the house in such a way and yet he never offered any abuse to her but that he lay on her bed....and she now doth freely forgive and pass by this and must say and clear him wholly further then that she judged him in drink and frightened her. Samuel Owen saith he knows not how he got or went to her house not being sensible. Owen was fined for his drunkenness and dismissed."*

CHILDREN: John Clark and Elizabeth Stebbins:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. John b. 1647 | 3. Elizabeth b. 1651; d. 1654 |
| 2. Sarah b. 1649; md. (1) Richard Barnard;
(2) Richard Waite | 4. Lydia b. 1653; d. 1654 |
| | 5. Mary b. 1654; md. David Morgan |

12. **Widow Debble:** owned 22 acres in 1647.

Widow of John Debble/Dibble who came to Springfield between 1637 and 1640. He was a single man in 1642. John Dibble owned land between John Clarke and Morgan Jones. He also had a grant in Longmeadow in 1645. It was also between John Clarke and Morgan Jones. When it was sold, the north half was sold to James Osborne and the south half sold to Samuel Bliss Jr. John was born abt 1615 and was of Weymouth, Dorset, England. Son of Robert Dibble and Francis Goody. He married Sarah _____ after 1642; he died in Sep 1646. The ancestral file also claims he was married to a Mary or Miriam. Both marriages are listed as about 1640; but from the records, we know he was a single man in 1642.

11. **Katherine Johns** (Jones) owned 19 acres in 1647.

26 Feb 1643: Ordered also that Morgan Jones (Johnes) shall have 4 acres of ground land layd out for plantinge next above Francis Ball up ye river. They had 8 acres of land between Rowland Stebbins and John Dibble. They also had 8 acres of land in Longmeadow that Widow Katherine Jones sold to Robert Ashley. Morgan Jones/Johns died in Springfield in 1643. Katherine is his widow.

12. **Jno. Herman (John Harmon \Harman)** owned 33 acres in 1647.

BIRTH: abt. 1617

MARRIAGE: Elizabeth (See Chapter regarding Elizabeth's identity.) John married Elizabeth prior to coming to Springfield. They had two sons, John and Samuel when they arrived in Springfield

DEATH: 7 Mar 1661 at Springfield. John's will bequeathed all to his wife. See copy of will and inventory elsewhere in this book. Estate valued at L104 with debts payable of L15. On 20 Sep 1663, John Pynchon and **Elizabeth Harmon**, John's widow, agreed that *"for which debt of L15 10s she doth for my security make over and firmly engage....betwixt 14 and 15 acres...which land I am to have provided I am not paid this debt within a 12 month or there abouts."* By 1669, L2.17 remained to be paid on the debt; the land was leased to sons, John and Joseph.

BIOGRAPHY: John Harman/Harmon/Herman--subject of this book was a Springfield proprietor; he was taxed in 1644; served as a town officer, surveyor and builder of highways and bridges. Occupations: farmer, laborer, teamster. John owned a team of oxen in conjunction with Samuel Wright; John's youngest child was found dead in Nathaniel Prichard's yard; Elizur Holyoke and John Lumbard witnessed his will; his land was between Nathaniel Prichard and Henry Burt; Other near neighbors were Samuel Wright and Nathaniel Bliss. There is much biographical information elsewhere in this book.

CHILDREN: **John Harmon** and Elizabeth: These children are further identified in other chapters.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. John b. 1641; md. Mary Dorchester | 5. Elizabeth b. 1649; d. 1652 (3y2m16d) |
| 2. Samuel b. 1643; d. 1677 | 6. Mary b. 1651; md. John Dorchester |
| 3. Sarah b. 1644; md. Charles Ferry | 7. Nathaniel b. 1653; md. Mary Skinner |
| 4. Joseph b. 1646; md. Hannah Filley | 8. Ebenezer b. 1656; d. 1660 (3y--drowned in brook) |

13. **Roger Pritchard**: owned 28 acres of land in 1647. (+17)

BIRTH: Abt 1600; son of Benjamin Prichard and Rebecca Jones.

MARRIAGE: Md. 1st Frances ____; She d. in 1651. Md. 2nd in 1653 Elizabeth Pruden Slough, dau of James Pruden; widow of William Slough. Early Milford Families states that Elizabeth's first husband, William Slough was executed at New Haven for a sexual deviation under the Mosaic law.

DEATH: Died in 1671 New Haven, CT. His wife, Frances died in Springfield in 1651.

BIOGRAPHY: Was in Springfield in 1643; in 1645, he had a grant of land in Long Meadow and later sold it to Samuel Bliss Jr. Roger Prichard's meadow land bordered **John Harmon** and Nathaniel Bliss. Roger's son, Nathaniel Prichard's home lot, planting ground, and wood lot bordered **John Harmon** and Nathaniel Bliss. According to the map of homelots, wet meadow and planting grounds, Roger Prichard and Samuel Wright Jr. had two lots 22 acres each in a triangular shape that they sold to Thomas Bancroft. He moved from Springfield to Milford, CT some time after 1651; then went to New Haven, CT.

CHILDREN of Roger and Frances:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Alice b. 1624; md. William Bradley | 3. Nathaniel. B. 1629; md. Hannah Langston |
| 2. Joan (Johanna)b. 1627; md. John Lumbard | |

CHILDREN of Roger Prichard and Elizabeth Slough:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Joseph b. 1654; d. 1676 | 2. Benjamin b. 1657; md. Rebecca Jones; d. 1743. |
|----------------------------|--|

14. **Nathaniel Bliss** Owned 51 ½ acres of land in 1647.

BIRTH: 1622 in Rodborough, Gloucester, England, son of Margaret (Hulins or Lawrence) and Thomas Bliss.

MARRIAGE: 1646 Katherine Chapin, daughter of Samuel.

DEATH: 8 Nov 1654 in Springfield. An inventory of Nathaniel Bliss' estate showed a value of over 54 pounds. His widow, Katherine, protected the rights of her children prior to her marriage to Thomas Gilbert in 1655 in court records of Springfield. His widow md. Thomas Gilbert--he d. 1662. They had four children; and she md 3rd Samuel Marshfield and had three more children.

BIOGRAPHY: After the death of her husband, which took place about the close of the year 1639, Nathaniel's mother, Widow Margaret Bliss and her eight children gathered their household goods and cattle together and made the journey through the forest from Hartford to Springfield in 1643. Her sons, Nathaniel and Samuel had been there previously and prepared a dwelling place for the family upon arrival. Nathaniel Bliss' land was between George Langdon and Nathaniel Prichard.

CHILDREN: of Nathaniel and Katherine Chapin Bliss:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Samuel b. 1647; d. age 102 in 1749
md. Sarah Stebbins | 3. Mary b. 1651; md. Nathaniel Holcomb |
| 2. Margaret b. 1649; md. Nathaniel Foot | 4. Nathaniel b. 1653; md. Deborah Colton |

15. **Widow Hannah Haynes** owned 40 ½ acres of land in 1647.

She was the widow of Edmund Haynes. She married 2nd George Langdon. Hannah was one of four witnesses summoned from Springfield to the witch trial of Hugh Parsons.

16. **Thomas Thompson** / Tomson owned 56 ½ acres of land in 1647.

BIOGRAPHY: emigrated in the late 1640s. In 1664, John Horton, Thomas Thompson, and Samuel Holyoke were each fined or sentenced to be whipped on the naked body for profaning the Lord's Day by making a fray in the street in the evening about ½ hour after sunset. This could have been a son of Thomas.

17. **Richard Exell** owned 35 acres in 1647.

MARRIAGE: He married Hannah Rowe Reeves, widow of Thomas on 4 Jun 1651.

.DEATH: Richard died in Springfield in 1714.

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield proprietor 1646-1672. Occupations: agricultural laborer, teamster, farmer, performed manual labor for John Pynchon on a regular basis. He transported goods to Enfield Falls; mowed, reaped, ditched, sawed, fenced, etc. in the early 1650s. Richard Excell's land adjoined Samuel Chapin and Richard Sikes.

Thomas Merick complained in court on 1649 of Richard Exile for taking tobacco in the open street on this 30 day of May 1649. Since the laws (against tobacco) were published after the offence and since Richard claimed he was not an inhabitant; the court warned him this time. Thomas Merick also filed a complaint against Hannah, wife of Richard Exell, in a debt action to collect a debt owed to him by her late husband, Thomas Reeves.

CHILDREN of Richard and Hannah Rowe Reeves EXELL:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Mary b. 1653; md. Henry Rogers | 4. John b. 1657 |
| 2. John b. 1655; d. young | 5. Abigail b. 1660 |
| 3. Lydia b. 1657 | |

18. **John Matthews** owned 33 acres in 1647.

MARRIAGE: Pentecost Bond 24 Feb 1643. She was killed by the Indians 5 Oct 1675 during the raid on Springfield.

He married (2) Mary Crowfoot (probably a widow) on 11 May 1680.

DEATH: He died 1684; estate valued at L8. He was heavily indebted. Administration granted to Nathaniel Burt .

BIOGRAPHY: John Matthews came to Springfield before 1645. John Matthews was a cooper--one who makes or

repairs casks or barrels usually used for keeping wine in. He constructed the barrels the Pynchons used to ship beaver hides and pork to Hartford, Boston, London, and the West Indies; paying a portion of his rent for the land he leased from Pynchon in "*12 good, tight barrels,*" As a town officer it was John's responsibility to beat the drum to call people to meetings. He was occasionally employed by John Pynchon as a messenger. John Matthews was also a sawyer. At one time he was contracted to get Pynchon 1350 good, sound three foot shingles an inch thick for L3. A year later Matthews contracted to get 12,000 shingles for L11.

In 1648, John was a witness against Thomas Merick in a case where Thomas was accused of abusing the Edwards child. Goodwife Matthews testified in 1649 that Goody Parsons came to her house and claimed that Widow Marshfield was a witch and had been a witch in Windsor before coming to Springfield. (See Samuel Marshfield)

In 1650 John Matthews paid Hugh Parsons to build him some chimneys---only Hugh did not build them so John complained in court against Parsons for the debt to be recovered. In November 1659, John Matthews was presented with a summons to appear as a witness for Francis Hacklington; but John Matthews commanded him off his ground and holding up his sickle at him and using other high words and unfitting carriage; and these things being made manifest to the court, was fined five shillings.

On 22 Jan 1661 in court, John Matthews was charged with being found drunken and bereaved of his understanding at Samuel Terry's wedding. He was fined. In the September court of 1661, Samuel Terry and his wife were found guilty of "*abusing one another before marriage*" from the date of birth of their child and were fined in lieu of ten lashes punishment.

At the county court level in March 1669, John Matthews of Springfield having been bound over by John Pynchon to answer for his "*exceeding contemptuous behavior*" toward the Reverend Pelatiah Glover, appeared at court and the evidence produced and read. It appeared that his carriage was "very odious and shameful" toward Glover "*much after the custom of the Quakers,*". Matthews was sentenced to fifteen stripes and ordered to pay ten pounds bond for his good behavior till September court and to pay all court costs. John Matthew's wife was a school teacher. When she died, the town denied him custody of his child and ordered the selectmen to compel him to use his time more productively. John Matthews land was bordered by Griffeth Jones and Jonathan Taylor. John Matthews lost his house and lands through indebtedness to the Pynchons.

CHILDREN:

of John Matthews and Pentecost Bond:

1. Abigail
2. Sarah

of John Matthews & Mary Crowfoot:

1. John b. 1681; d. 1684

19. **William Branch** owned 27 ½ acres in 1647.

MARRIAGE: 1st Johan Farnam at Windsor in 1643. She died 12 Oct 1675; 2nd Katherine. She d. Aug 1683.

DEATH: 16 Sep 1683 in Springfield.

BIOGRAPHY: It is possible that William is the same man as William Braunsh who at age 24 came in the Confidence 11 Apr 1638 as a servant to Thomas Jones. A Springfield proprietor in 1646. Made a freeman 13 Apr 1648. Occupations: farmer, barber, laborer. In Jan 1664/5, William worked for John Pynchon filling in a ditch and laying it level for 20 shillings both sides. He also carted wood and put up barb fencing. In 1665, he was in debt to Pynchon for L30 and lost an 8 acre meadow to pay the debt. He owned a homelot and woodlot in Springfield and some meadow land in Long Meadow which he later sold to George Colton.

20. **George Colton** owned 61 acres in 1647.

MARRIAGE: George married Deborah Gardner, daughter of John abt 1644. Deborah died in 1689. He then married

1 Mar 1692, Lydia Wright, widow successively of Lawrence Bliss, John Norton, and John Lamb. Lydia died 13 Feb 1699.

DEATH: George died 17 Dec 1699. His will bequeathed to his four sons, Isaac, Ephriam, Thomas and John and to their male heirs; to their three sisters, my daughters: to Rebecca, Samuel and Joseph, the children of daughter, Sarah, deceased; to John's daughter, Abigail. Isaac and Ephriam Colton were executors. His estate was valued at L847.

BIOGRAPHY: George came to Springfield from Hartford, CT and was a proprietor in 1645. Coulton is not on the 1640 map of first settlers of Springfield. He was one of the chief citizens of the plantation. George served as a deputy three terms and was part of the original committee for laying out new plantations. He was a selectman for 18 terms. His occupation was farmer. He served as a lieutenant in the militia.

George Colton was Quarter Master of the Hampshire County troop; did important service in King Phillip's War. In 1695, George was Captain of the military troops of Springfield.

George Coulton and Benjamin Cooley shared a team of oxen that was left unattended in the meadow and they were fined 1 ½ bushels of wheat. George Coulton was called upon as a witness in the Hugh Parson witchcraft trial in 1652. Quarter Master George Coulton was chosen deputy for the general court to be held in Oct 1669. In 1674, QM George Coulton was selected to carry the votes to the shire meeting.

CHILDREN: of George COLTON and Deborah:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Isaac b. 1646; md. Mary Cooper | 5. Sarah b. 1653; md. Samuel Graves |
| 2. Ephraim b. 1648; md. (1) Mary Drake
(2) Esther Marshfield | 6. Deborah b. 1655; md. Nathaniel Bliss Jr. |
| 3. Mercy b. 1649; md. Samuel Barnard | 7. Hepzibah b. 1657; md. Jonathan Wells |
| 4. Thomas b. 1651; md. (1) Sarah Griswold;
(2) Hannah Bliss | 8. John b. 1659; md. (1) Abigail Parsons;
(2) Johanna Wolcott |
| | 9. Benjamin b. 1661; d. 1661 |

21. **Griffith Jones** (Griffin Jones) owned 36 ½ acres in 1647.

BIRTH: Griffith Jones was born in Wales about 1620

MARRIAGE: His wife was Margarite and they came to Springfield about 1646. Margarite Jones was fined for carrying uncovered fire in the open in 1652. Margarite died in 1665 and Griffith married Sarah the same year.

DEATH: Griffin Jones died in 1676. Administration of his estate granted to his sons Samuel and Ebenezer. When Griffith Jones died his estate was valued at L119 with debts payable of L34.

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield proprietor 1646.

Griffith Jones was a "Presenter" of the town and presented to the court John Clark for leaving an offensive carrion by the brook in 1648. Griffin was a tanner who lost his house and lands through indebtedness to the Pynchons. Jones indebted to John Pynchon on 21 Nov 1661 for L53.2.0; paid L17.15.0, leaving a balance of L35.7.0. Jones was unable to redeem his debt on 8 Apr 1663, so John Pynchon took his house and lot and orchard with the tan house, tan vats, etc. Also three acres in the meadow and a woodlot along with a yearling calf. After that Pynchon rented land to Jones at 6s per acre; and other land in exchange for work. Griffith Jones land was between John Matthews and Riece Bedortha.

CHILDREN of Griffith JONES and Margarite: (Benoni is probably the son of Sarah if dates here are correct.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mercy b. 1647; md. James Barker | 6. Griffith b. 1658; d. 1658 |
| 2. Hepzibah b. 1648; md. Isaac Cakebread | 7. Griffith b. 1660 |
| 3. Samuel b. 1650 | 8. Experience b. 1662; md. John Higgins/Huggins |
| 4. Ebenezer b. 1653 ; md. Mercy Bagg | 9. Pelatiah b. 1664; md. Sarah Meekins |
| 5. Thomas b. 1655; md. Elizabeth Graves | 10. Benoni b. 1666; md. Esther Ingersoll |

22. **Reice Bedortha** (Rise or Reese: Reice) owned 20 acres in 1647.(-4)

BIRTH: Rice was born about 1621.

MARRIAGE: About 1646 he married Blanche Lewis at Springfield. (Is she the daughter of Mary Lewis who married Hugh Parsons?)

DEATH: Rice, his son, John; Lydia, the wife of his son Joseph; and Mercy, daughter of his son, Samuel, all drowned while crossing the Connecticut River 18 Mar 1683. (Some records give the date as 8 March 1682.

BIOGRAPHY: First leased land in 1644; proprietor in 1646. Occupations: farmer, tanner, sawyer. Some of the work he did for Pyncheon included loading his canoe and raising a barn. Rice Bedortha served John Pyncheon as a riverman on many occasions. He was known as a carter.

In 1650, Joseph Parsons complained against Rice Bedornie (Bedortha) for pulling down his fence against his hay Rick in the long meadow. Bedortha followed with a complaint against Joseph Parsons for unjust possessing of his land in the long meadow and was admitted to try his case. The jury found in favor of Joseph Parsons on both instances. Reice Bedortha's land lies between Griffeth Jones and Benjamin Cooley. Of interest is that according to the map, Rice does not have any land on the Long Meadow--instead Joseph Parsons name appears where Reice's normally would on the meadow land. In 1652, Richard Sikes presented Reice Bedortha for taking tobacco on his hay cock; also Benjamin Mun for the same offence. Each were fined 5 shillings. On 16 Sep 1670, Reice Bedortha made a complaint against William Brookes and Mary his wife for abusing of his son, Joseph Bedortha, by bad language, flinging a stick at him and using reproachful words, threatening expressions and taunting speeches. The Brooks partly denied the accusation, yet were found guilty and fined 20 shillings for William and 10 for Mary. Those testifying against the Brooks were: John Scot, Isack Morgan, Thomas Lamb, John Bag, David Morgan, Edmund and Mary Pengilley.

In 1654, Rice (Reice) promised to bring John Pynchon a "*certaine calfe...and 20 bush. Of good wheate*" toward the debt within a month. On 26 Jun 1663, John Pynchon sold him a tanning house which he had taken earlier for debts from Griffith Jones, and a three acre lot for 15 pounds to be paid within three years in wheat. He lost this place in 1667 for debts owed to Pynchon.

He served as a town officer. In 1662, Rice Bedortha was the third Corporal of the trained band of Springfield.

CHILDREN of Rice Bedortha and Blanche Lewis:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. John | 3. Samuel b. 1651; md: (1) Mercy Dumbleton |
| 2. Joseph b. 1649; md. (1) Mary Dumbleton | (2) 1691, Mary Remington Leonard |
| (2) Lydia Dumbleton | 4. John b. 1654 |
| (3) Hannah Marshfield | |

23. **Will. Vahan:** (Vaughan) owned 6 acres in 1647.
He emigrated in the late 1640s.

24. **Benjamin Cooley** (Cooley; Cowley) owned 40 ½ acres in 1647 (+2)

BIRTH: Born 25 Feb 1615 to William (or Earl) Coley (Coaley) and Joane Arnott.

MARRIAGE: Sarah Colton in 1642.

DEATH: Benjamin Cooley died in Springfield in 1684. His estate was valued at L1241.

BIOGRAPHY: He was a Springfield proprietor 1645; selectman for 19 terms; ensign in the militia. In 1649, Benjamin Cooley and George Coulton shared a team of oxen that was left unattended in the meadow and were fined 1 ½ bushel's of wheat. This may provide a clue to the identity of Sarah Colton/Coulton, wife of Benjamin.

Benjamin was a weaver. Samuel Terry was one of his apprentices. Samuel had been indentured to William Pynchon and an agreement was made between Pynchon and Cooley for Samuel to be trained as a weaver by Cooley. Perhaps Thomas Terry, who married Benjamin's daughter, is connected to this Samuel.

Benjamin often served on the jury. In 1659 Benjamin Cooley took John Webb to court to collect a debt. Benjamin Cooley's land is between that of Reice Bedortha and Jonathan Burt.

CHILDREN: of Benjamin Cooley and Sarah Colton:

1.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Bethia b. 1643; md. Henry Chapin | 6. Sarah b. 1653; md. Jonathan Morgan |
| 2. Abelenah md. Japhlet Chapin | 7. Benjamin b. 1656; md Abigail Bagg |
| 3. Obediah b. 1647; md. Rebecca Williams | 8. Mary b. 1659; md. Thomas Terry |
| 4. Eliakim b. 1648; md. Hannah Ribbals | 9. Joseph b. 1662; md. Mary Griswold |
| 5. Daniel b. 1651; md. Elizabeth Wolcott | |

25. **Hugh Parsons** owned 37 ½ acres in 1647. (+4)

BIRTH: 11 Mar 1613 Sandford, England son of Hugh Thomas Parsons and Kate Ratcliff

MARRIAGE: 1626: (1) Elizabeth England. (2) Ancestral File gives a second wife, Ruth md in 1638. (3) In 1645, while still married to "*one Lewis, a papist,*" Mary Lewis, a Catholic, fell into a "league of amity with a brick maker of our town, Hugh Parsons." Because she had not cohabited with her husband for above seven years, she asked Pynchon to secure permission from the General Court to marry Parsons.

DEATH: 1684 Portsmouth, Rhode Island

BIOGRAPHY: It is probable that Hugh was an older brother of Benjamin and Joseph Parsons who were also early settlers of Springfield. However, according to what I found, this is not proven at all. Hugh first appears on Springfield records 27 Oct 1645. Hugh was a sawyer who owned a sawmill; also a bricklayer; and he served as a town officer. Hugh Parsons land was between Jonathan Burt and John Lombard.

The first connection with witchcraft proceedings in Massachusetts Bay are those against Mary and Hugh Parsons of Springfield. Four years after marrying Hugh, Mary Parsons began accusing others in Springfield of witchcraft. She accused Goody Marshfield of being a witch. Mary was convicted of harassment on May 30, 1649 and sentenced to twenty lashes or payment of three pounds to the Widow Marshfield for spreading reports that the Widow was suspected of being a witch. Thus began a witchcraft frenzy in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts forty years before the more well-known Salem witchcraft trials.

About 1 ½ years later, Mary declared that she had discovered another witch--her husband! This time the town became suspicious. In her examination, Mary Parsons implicated Goodwife Merrick and Besse Sewell as also being witches. Many testified against Hugh in court regarding his treatment of Mary during her pregnancy and after the baby's birth.

Anthony Dorchester, who with his wife, resided with the Parsons, testified that Parsons "*never feared either to grieve or displease his wife any time.*" Dorchester declared that "*I saw nothing Parsons did to comfort his wife, but he did often blame her that she did not throw corn.*" Also Hugh was angry because Mary helped Mrs. Dorchester without bringing any profit in for him. Parson's mistreatment of his wife went beyond requiring her to work in the fields while pregnant. He had many misdeeds and anti-social behaviors towards his neighbors. Meat mysteriously disappeared from **Anthony Dorchester's** kettle; Thomas Miller spoke against witches in Hugh's presence and immediately cut his leg; Symon Beamon's gentle horse threw him after he met Hugh Parsons at a corn mill. Tools of men working near Hugh would disappear and then reappear without cause; children and animals who came into contact with him would experience sudden fits, sicken and even die.

This experience and other troubles affected Mary's health and finally her mind gave way. Hugh fell under the suspicion of witchcraft and many absurd stories were told of him. In Feb 1651 both Hugh and Mary were arraigned before Mr. Pynchon upon formal charges of witchcraft. Mary was accused of bewitching Martha and Rebecca Moxon, children of the minister, while Hugh was accused of practicing devilish arts upon about a dozen persons. Witnesses gave their testimonies between Feb 27, 1651 and April 7. The testimonies

included such happenings as: Hannah Lankton found the pudding cut from end to end several times when she took it from the bag; Thomas Miller joked Parsons about the pudding and soon after that Miller cut his leg; Blanche Bedortha, after an argument with Parsons, began having cutting pains; after having trouble with Mr. Moxon about some bricks Parsons was to have made, Moxon's children began to have fits. Strange stories of bewitched cows, a tongue disappearing from a boiling kettle; etc.

On March 4, 1651, the youngest child of the Parsons, little Joshua, died. It is suspected that the 2nd infant's death drove Mary out of her mind. She accused Hugh of witchcraft and murder. She was "*obviously a mental case and concentrated upon spreading reports that her husband was a witch.*" When Hugh received the news of the death of his baby, he showed no sorrow or natural grief. Hugh was also accused by another woman in town who was convinced that Hugh put a spell on her. Many people testified at his trial of unpleasant things that happened to people or to their possessions when Hugh threatened "*to get even*" with them. Hugh was taken chains in custody on March 2, and was sent to Boston for trial. Hugh was found guilty of witchcraft and sentenced to prison. On

12 May 1652, a grand jury indicted Hugh Parsons, husband of Mary, for witchcraft and the trial jury found him guilty. Then the cause went before the General court and on

May 31, 1652 the prisoner, Hugh Parsons, was judged not legally guilty of witchcraft. He was acquitted but never returned to Springfield. Among those called to testify at his trial were Jonathan Taylor, George Colton, Hannah Langton and Samuel Marshfield.

Mary later broke down and confessed to consorting with Satan and to killing her own baby. She was taken into custody in March or April 1651;. Mary pleaded guilty of murdering her child and was condemned to death 22 May 1651 by hanging. Mary Lewis Parsons was condemned, not for witchcraft, but for infanticide. When the jailers came to take Mary to the scaffold, she was so ill she couldn't move. They came back the next day and found Mary dead.

CHILD: of Hugh Parsons and Elizabeth England:

Grace b. abt 1630 in Portsmouth, Rhode Island; md. William Bailey & Thomas Lawton

CHILDREN: of Hugh Parsons and Mary Lewis:

1. Hannah b. 1646 (some say she is dau of Elizabeth) 3. Joshua b. 1650; d. 1651 (5m)
md. Henry Matteson & Charles Hazelton
2. Samuel b. 1648; d. 1649

26. **John Lombard** owned 25 acres in 1647.

MARRIAGE: He married Joan or Johanna Prichard in 1647. According to the Ancestral File, she was a sister of Nathaniel Prichard, who lived next door to **John Harmon** and had many close associations with the **John Harmon** family.

DEATH: He died at Springfield in 1672. At death he owned 2 oxen, 2 cows, 2 steers, and a calf. His estate was valued at L133, including a total of 34 acres of land.

BIOGRAPHY: Occupation: livestock farmer. John Lombard's land was the farthest grant given in the town. It was next to Hugh Parsons. He was a Springfield proprietor 1646; and served as a town officer.

John Lombard and Elizur Holyoke took their oaths in court on Sept 24, 1661 that they were present with **John Harmon** of Springfield a little before his death, at which time he made his last will and testament. This is interesting to me as one lived on one end of town and the other nearly on the other end. John Lombard witnessed the sale of land by Widdow Elizabeth Harman to her son-in-law Charles Ferry on 12 Mar 1662. The other witness was John Lamb.

CHILDREN of John Lombard and Johanna (Joan) Prichard:

1. John b. 1648; died age 24
2. David b. 1650; md. Margaret Filley

3. Nathaniel b. 1654; d. 1654 (14d)



V 1648 SIGNERS OF THE OATH OF FIDELITY:

6 Feb 1648 At a Court this 6 Feb 1648 [1649]. The underwritten tooke the oath of Fidelity:

The Oath of Fidelity

I, _____, being by Gods providence an Inhabitant within the Jurisdiction of this Common-wealth, doe freely and sincerely acknowledge myselfe to be subject to the Government thereof. And doe heer swear by the great and dreadfull Name of the Ever-living God, that I will be true and faithful to the same, and will accordingly yield assistance thereunto, with my person and estate, as in equitie I am bound: and will also truly endeavor to maintain and preserve all the Liberties and Privileges thereof, submitting myself unto the wholesome Laws made, and established by the same. And further, that I will not plot or practice any evil against it, or consent to any that shall so doe; but will timely discover and reveal the same to lawful Authoritie now here established, for the speedy preventing thereof. So help me God in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rowland Thomas	John Stebbinge
William Brookes	Nathaniel Browne
Thomas Cooper	William Warrener
Robert Ashley	John Leonard
James Bridgeman	John Clark
Samuell Marshfield	Rowland Stebbing
Jonathan Burt	John Herman
Thomas Merick	George Langhton
John Matthews	Thomas Sewell
Richard Exile	Jonathan Taylor
Georg Coulten	Griffith Jones
Rice Bedorthe	Benjamin Cooly
Hugh Parsons	John Lumbard
Miles Morgan	Alesander Edwards
Nathaniell Blisse	

This list of Springfield men is the nearest thing to a census that I have been able to locate for this time period. (1648)
Those who have not been previously identified are:

1. **William Brookes** (+7)

BIRTH: William Brooks b 1610, sailed from London to VA in 1635.

MARRIAGE: He married Mary Burt, daughter of Henry Burt and Eulalia March on
18 Oct 1654.

DEATH: He died in Deerfield in 1688 and his widow, Mary, died in 1689.

BIOGRAPHY: He was in Springfield by 1649. In 1653 on Nov 26, William Brookes was charged with defrauding several persons in withholding from them and converting to his own use the goods of several persons and was adjudged to make satisfaction to them. Being unable to pay the sum of 18 pounds he was committed to the custody of the Constable. On the first of December, 1653, John Stebbins, Mistress Smith and Frances Pepper

say that if he shall satisfy the wronged persons before the next court he shall be released from the Constable's custody---only he is not allowed to leave town until the sum is satisfied.

In 1662 William Brookes was called to testify against Thomas Miller, John Scott, Edward Foster, John Bagg, John Henryson and his wife concerning their playing "*at that awful game of cards.*"

Ten years later on 16 Sep 1670, Rice Bedortha made a complaint against William Brookes and Mary his wife for abusing his son, Joseph, by bad language, flinging a stick at him, and using reproachful words, threatening expressions, and taunting speeches. Although they partly denied the charges they were found guilty and fined.

A later time, William Brooke of Springfield was bound by Pynchon in the sum of twenty pounds that his daughter, Patience, being with child out of wedlock, appear at the September 1680 County Court and answer "*to her crime and guilt of that vile sin of fornication.*" The Court, being "desirous to shew their detestation of such forbidden and dangerous carnal Lusts and if possible to prevent such lie God provoking wayes" adjudged the offender to be whipped with fifteen lashes or else to pay a fine of four pounds to the county treasurer. Thomas Taylor, with two sureties, also gave bond to Pynchon in the sum of twenty pounds to appear at the same court and answer what Patience Brooke had to lay to his charge, as well as for his good behavior in the meantime.

William Brooke is not on map of early land holders. Indebted to Pynchon and appealed for more time to pay his debts which was granted; however, he was unable to meet obligations and in 1686, Pynchon took 153 acres from Brooks for payment of L83 debts. He leased his cow, steers and 30 acres from Pynchon. In 1686, he moved to Deerfield where he died.

CHILDREN of William Brooks and Mary Burt:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Remembrance b. 1654; md. James Brown | 9. Abigail b. 1665; md. Samuel Stebbins |
| 2. William b. 1655; d. 1675 in King Philip's War | 10. Joseph b. 1667; md. Lydia Warner |
| 3. John b. 1657; d. 1675 in King Philip's War | 11. Mercy b. 1669; md. Samuel Carter |
| 4. Sarah b. 1658; md. (1) Jonathan Taylor | 12. Benjamin b. 1671; md. Mary ____ . |
| (2) John Hanchett | 13. Deliverance b. 1673; md. Mary Burt. |
| 5. Mary b. 1659; d. young | 14. Thankful b. 1673; d. 1673 |
| 6. Patience b. 1661; md. Thomas Taylor | 15. Jonathan b. 1674 |
| 7. Ebenezer b. 1662; md. Elizabeth Belding | 16. Mary b. 1677; md. Barrett Steel |
| 8. Nathaniel b. 1664; md. (1) Mary Williams; | 17. Thankful b. 1679; md. Josiah Church |
| (2) Mary Allis | |

2. **Nathaniel Brown:** (-5)

BIRTH: abt 1622 London, Middlesex, England to Percey Brown and Miss Rich.

MARRIAGE: 23 Dec 1647 Eleanor WATTS dau of Richard Watts & Elizabeth Duck.

DEATH: 5 Oct 1675 at Hartford, Connecticut

BIOGRAPHY: There is a court record showing Nathaniel to be in debt and in order to pay the debts his goods were attached. The debts consisted of white starch, raisins, sugar, vinegar, wine and cakes. The goods attached until the debts were paid were: 1 brass bottle; 1 iron pot; 2 pewter plates and 2 earthen dishes. The debt was to be paid in wheat. **Anthony Dorchester** was called as a witness in this case and testified that he heard Nathaniel promise to bring some corn down to help satisfy the debt. Not listed on map of the early land owners.

CHILDREN of Nathaniel Brown and Eleanor Watts:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Nathaniel b. 1649; d. 1649 | 2. Hannah b. 1651 | 3. John b. 1651; d. young |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|

4. Nathaniel b. 1654
5. Thomas b. 1655 d. young
6. John b. 1657
7. Benoni b. 1659

3. Samuel Marshfield: (-8)

BIRTH: Samuel Marshfield was born abt 1625/1626 son of Thomas and Mercy Marshfield.

MARRIAGE: He married Hester Wright (dau of Samuel) in 1651; His wife, Hester died 1664 and Samuel married Catherine Chapin (dau of Samuel Chapin—widow successively of Nathaniel Bliss and Thomas Gilbert.)

DEATH: Samuel Marshfield died 12 May 1692.

BIOGRAPHY: He was a Springfield proprietor, 1648. Was marshal of the county many years; deputy; town officer. John Pyncheon considered Marshfield *"the fittest man among us...being the best interpreter in these parts."*

In 1649 the widow Marshfield (Samuel's mother) complained against Mary, the wife of Hugh Parsons, reporting her to be suspected for a witch. Mary Parsons said that Goody Marshfield *"envied every woman's child till her own daughter had a child (Goody Marshfield's daughter was Sarah Marshfield, wife of Thomas Miller) and then said she their child died and their cow died and I am persuaded said she they were bewitched....and she (Mary Parsons) claimed that she had heard that Goody Marshfield had been a witch in Windsor and that there were divers stronge lightes seen of late in the meadow that were never seen before the widow Marshfield came to towne and that she did grudge other women that had children because her daughter had none."* Mary Parsons was found guilty of slander and sentenced to be well whipped with 20 lashes unless she could pay 3 pounds to the widow Marshfield for and towards the reparation of her good name. This amount was paid in 24 bushels of Indian corn. Later, at the witchcraft trial of Hugh and Mary Parsons, Samuel Marshfield was one of the witnesses called to testify. Samuel was a member of the inquest jury at the death of little Ebenezer Harmon.

In 1662 Samuel Marshfield presented his desires to the court for a renewal of his licence to keep an Ordinary or house of Common Entertainment and for selling wine or liquors provided he keep good order in his house.

After Captain Samuel Holyoke died in King Philip's War, Samuel Marshfield was elected to take his place as Selectman. No land found for Samuel Marshfield on early map. Samuel was a merchant-farmer who lost his house and lands on this side of the great river on 13 Sep 1686 due to debts; later he lost an additional 117 acres for a debt of L150.12.3 to John Pyncheon due to indebtedness.

CHILDREN: Samuel Marshfield and Hester Wright:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Mercy b. 1653; d. 1653 (2d) | 4. Samuel b. 1659 |
| 2. Thomas b. 1654 | 5. Hannah b. 1661; md. Joseph Bedortha |
| 3. Sarah b. 1656; md. William Holton Jr. | 6. Abilene b. 1664; md Thomas Gilbert |

CHILDREN of Samuel Marshfield and Catherine Chapin:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Josiah b. 1665; md. Rachel Gilbert | 3. Margaret b. 1670; md. Ebenezer Parsons |
| 2. Esther b/ 1667; md. Ephriam Colton | |

4. Jonathan Burt:

BIRTH: Son of Henry Burt and Eulalia Marche.

MARRIAGE: Jonathan married (1) in 1651 Elizabeth Lobdell born 21 Aug 1632 in England. daughter of either Nicholas or Isaac Lobdell. She died 11 Nov 1684 at Springfield.

Jonathan married (2) 1686 Deliverence Lanckton dau of George Lackton and widow of Thomas Hanchet. Deliverance and Thomas are the parents of John Hanchet who married as a second wife, Mary (Skinner) Harmon, widow of Nathaniel Harmon.

DEATH:

BIOGRAPHY: Known as Deacon Burt. Named in administration papers of his father was Henry, along with brother, Nathaniel. Jonathan Burt and Thomas Cooper were witnesses of the “spoken” desires of Henry Burt prior to his death. Thomas Cooper was an Ensign and Jonathan Burt served as first Corporal in the offices of the trained military band of Springfield. In 1653 Jonathan was selected as deputy to serve in the constable’s absence. William Warriner was constable at the time. Deacon Jonathan Burt presented account books in court several times. He was also a Selectman of the town of Springfield. In 1678/9, Jonathan Burt was selected by the freemen to be the person to carry up their sealed votes for nominations of magistrates and associates of the county courts and also county treasurer to the shire meeting. In 1685/6, Benjamin Knowlton brought an action against Charles Ferry (son-in-law of **John and Elizabeth Harmon**) for defaming Knowlton’s wife by false reports and accusing her of being the raiser of scandalous reports on Miriam Mirick, deceased. That same year Deacon Jonathan Burt brought an action against Thomas Mirick Senior for defaming plaintiff by saying (Burt) “*lyed basely and was a lying man.*” Burt forgave Mirick upon his owning his disorder and ill speakings. Mirick said he was sorry for the words acknowledges that they were “*grose, rash, foolish, and sinful, and desired Deacon Burt to pass them by.*” Jonathan Burt’s adjoining neighbors were Hugh Parsons and Benjamin Cooley.

CHILDREN: Jonathan BURT and Elizabeth Lobdell:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Elizabeth b. 1652; md. Victory Sikes | 4. John b. 1658; md. Sarah Day |
| 2. Jonathan b. 1654; md. Lydia Dumbleton | 5. Mercy b. 1661 |
| 3. Sarah b. 1656; md. (1) Benjamin Dorchester; | 6. Henry b. 1663; md. (1) Elizabeth Warriner |
| (2) Luke Hitchcock | (2) Deborah Stebbin Alvord |
| | 7. Sitllborn child b. abt 1665. |

5. **George Langton:** (Langdon; Lanckton; Langhton) (+19)

BIRTH: abt 1598

MARRIAGE: abt 1622; name of first wife unknown; 1646 Widow Hannah Haynes

DEATH: George’s will was dated 1676; He bequeathed to wife; to son, Thomas Hanchet; daughters, Corber, Pritchett, and Easter Hannam; son John and grandson Samuel Langdon.

BIOGRAPHY: George came to Springfield abt 1646 from Wethersfield, Connecticut; He was a town officer 1650; The name of his first wife is not known. He married (2) the widow of Edmund Haynes. in Springfield 1646 Hannah Langton was one of the witnesses summoned from Springfield to the witch trial of Hugh Parsons on May 13, 1652. Other witnesses were Jonathan Taylor, George Colton, and Samuel Marshfield.

George Lanckton’s land was between that owned by Nathaniel Bliss and Margaret Bliss. He removed to Northampton around 1658. There are so many ways to spell this surname, that the researcher needs to be so careful to check alternate spellings. In the second generation, the family usually used Langdon; now it is generally Langton.

CHILDREN: George Langton and first wife

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. John b. 1624; md. Mary Seymour | 3. Daughter md. William Corbee |
| 2. Deliverance b. 1627; md. Thomas Hanchett | 4. Hannah b. 1629; md. Nathaniel Prichard |

Child of George LANGTON and Hannah Haynes (Widow)

1. Hester b. 1649; md. John Hannum

6. **Thomas Sewell:** (Sowell; Sewill)

MARRIAGE: His wife is probably Besse.

BIOGRAPHY: In Springfield by 1648. Thomas was taken to court for a debt he owed to Joseph Parsons in 1649. Sewell was ordered to pay. Besse Sewell was implicated as a witch by the testimony of Mary Parsons in her witchcraft trial in May of 1651. Not found on the land list of early land owners. Removed from Springfield perhaps to Wickford in 1674

CHILDREN of Thomas SEWELL:

1. Daughter b. 1649; d. 1649 (3 w)

2. Abigail b. 1650

7. **Jonathan Taylor:**

BIRTH: abt 1624

MARRIAGE: Mary Taylor abt 1649 in Springfield

DEATH: 9 Sep 1683 Suffield, Hartford, CT

BIOGRAPHY: On 10 Mar 1667/68, John Pynchon let out to Jonathan Taylor a house on the west side of the river with 7 ½ acres of ground taken earlier from Hugh Dudley for debts. Jonathan was to repair the house by thatching it and to repair all the fencing. Taylor held the lease until his death 16 years later; also rented 2 black steers.

Jonathan Taylor was summoned as a witness in the Hugh Parsons witchcraft trial in 1652. Jonathan Taylor and **Anthony Dorchester** were charged for not being present on Lecture day, 9 Feb 1653. Jonathan plead his inability of body at that time and was freed from service that day. **Anthony Dorchester** was fined for being absent.

Lieutenant Fyler fined Jonathan Taylor for not appearing as a witness in court against Joseph Leonard in an action of debt in 1678. John Taylor was released from the Springfield jail to attend church, but he profaned the Sabbath by absenting himself from public worship.

Jonathan Taylor's land lie between Joseph Parsons and John Matthews. John Taylor was an agricultural laborer and tenant who lost his house and lands through indebtedness to the Pynchons. Taylor became indebted to John Pynchon on 6 Oct 1656 for L19.19.3. To offset a portion of the debt, he gave Pynchon "*yoak of steers*" valued at L12.10.0 in 1657. In 1663, Pynchon lent Taylor "4 bushels of Indian Corn" with a promise to repay the next Spring--but when the time came to pay up, Taylor did not have any way to pay his debts. Pynchon asked for 4 acres of land, but Taylor declared he "knew not how to part with it." Eventually, Taylor's debt became so great that he formally deeded to Pynchon 14 acres of his land on the west side of the river. When Taylor died, his estate was valued at L40 and his debts at L47.

CHILDREN of Jonathan TAYLOR and Mary:

There are several children attributed to this couple on the Ancestral File, but the records are so full of error and assumptions that I am not going to include them here.

8. **Alexander Edwards:**

BIRTH: He came from Wales.

MARRIAGE: He md. Sarah (Baldwin) Searles, widow of John Searles.

DEATH: Will 1690 beq to sons Samuel, Benjamin and Nathaniel; daus Mary Field and Elizabeth Clark; to Sarah North; and John and Samuel Davis; wife to be well cared for.

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield proprietor 1643; town officer. Alexander Edwards served as a constable. Alexander accused Thomas Merick of abusing his child, Samuel Edwards, who was 5 or 6. Witnesses were John Mathews and Nathaniel Bliss. Thomas Merick was found guilty. Alexander Edward's land was between James Bridgeman and John Clark. He went to North Hampton in 1654/55.

CHILDREN of Alexander and Sarah:

1. Samuel b. 1643

4. Mary b. 1649; md. John Field

2. Hanna b. 1645

5. Benjamin b. 1652

3. Joseph b. 1647

6. Sarah b. 1654



VI

LAND GRANTS OF 1649

Granted land Feb 12, 1649 *"It is ordered ye Geo. Colton and Thomas Cooper who is ye Towne treasurer should with yr best discretion lay out the severall parcells of Meadow granted ye last yeare, to Henry Burte 4 acres; Tho. Mirick 4 acres; Alex. Edwards 4 acres; Jno. Harman 4 acres In ye Longe meadow over ye brooke."*
These men have all been previously identified.



VII

1649 OWNERS OF OXEN:

The following information was gleaned from Genealogical and Family History of Western New York Vol 2 pg. 961; film 6,046,620.

30 May 1649 The sworn presenter of the breach of order did this 30 May present Mr. Smith, Mr. Holioak, Mr. Moxon, Thomas Cooper, Samuel Chapen, William Warrener, Robert Ashly, Serjant Merik, James Bridgeman, Samuell Writht, John Herman, Benjamin Cooly and George Coulton for the breach of a Towne order in leaving their oxen over the Great River since the first of May last without a keeper. The Towne order makes each Teame liable to a fine of 5 shillings per teame if Any do kepe oxen over the River without a constant keeper after the first day of May.

Mr. Smith, Mr. Holioak and Serjant Merik had teames there of 4 oxen a peace. Mr. Moxon and Thomas Cooper one; Samuell Chappen and William Warrener one, Robert Ashly and James Bridgeman one. Samuell Wright and John Herman one, Benjamin Cooly and George Coulton one; in all eight teams.

A warrant to the Constable for the taking up these forfeites and to pay them presently to the Towne Treasurer Mr. John Pynchon. These dues belonging to the Towne were all released by the town. [Marginal note]

These said Teames did also trespass Henry Burt in his marshe wheate which was valued by Richard Sykes and George Lanckton to be to the value of 12 bushells in their best apprehensions; and they were all Content to refer themselves to my order for the severall proportions what every one is to pay.

I have considered of it and for want of prooffe whose oxen did the damage in particular I have judged it most equal that all of said 8 teames doe pay 1 bushell and a halfe a peace the next winter by the first of December next, viz.

Henry Smith	1 bushell and a half
Elitzur Holioak	1 bushell and a half
Serjant Merik	1 bushell and a half
Mr. Moxon and Thomas Cooper	1 bushell and a half
Samuell Chapen and William Warrener	1 bushell and a half
Robert Ashly and James Bridgeman	1 bushell and a half
Samuell Wright and John Herman	1 bushell and a half
Benjamin Cooly and George Coulton	1 bushell and a half

The thing that interests me in the case of the owners of the oxen who were fined is that none of those who shared a team of oxen had land that adjoined each other. These men have been previously identified; however, it is interesting to note which men shared a team of oxen. One wonders how the partnerships were chosen.



VIII

THOSE WHO TOOK THE OATH OF FIDELITY March 23, 1655/56

March 23d 1655/56 being a Training day these under written took the oath of fidelity:

Thomas Bancroft	John Stewart	James Warrener
Obadiah Miller	Symon Sackett	Nathaneel Burt
Hugh Dudley	Samuel Bliss	William Morgan
Lawrence Bliss	Jeremy Horton	James Taylor
Edward Foster	John Sackett	Josiah Chapin
Abell Wright	Richard Maund	John Riley
Anthony Dorchester	Francis Pepper	James Osborne
John Horton	John Earle	

Most of these men are a younger generation than **John Harmon**. Those who have not been previously identified are:

1. **Thomas Bancroft:** (-5) (Age 33 in 1655)

BIRTH: 10 Feb 1622 London, London, England to John Bancroft and Jane.

MARRIAGE: (1) 8 Dec 1653 Springfield, Hampden, MA to Margaret Wright, daughter of Samuel Wright and Margaret. (2) 22 Nov 1676 Hannah Gardner, dau of Samuel Gardner and Lydia Oldham.

DEATH: 14 Dec 1684 Springfield, Hampden, MA; buried in Wakefield, Essex, Massachusetts. His will, dated 1684 identifies Nathaniel as his son.

BIOGRAPHY: Thomas Bancroft was a miller. He leased John Pynchon's mill house for seven years "*hee to doe all the worke that belongs to it for the ready and well grinding of the corne of the plantation*" for annual rent payments of L8 the first year and L13 thereafter. John Pynchon's corn was to be ground without charge; all others were to pay a toll directly to Bancroft. In 1667, he leased John Pynchon's ten acre lot next to the mill. In 1672, the mill rental increased to L18. Served jury duty in Springfield and was listed as a freeman in Springfield.

CHILDREN: of Thomas Bancroft and Margaret Wright.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Lydia b. 1655; d. 1665 (9y) | 5. Anna b. 1663; md. (1) Thomas Gilbert;
(2) James Sexton |
| 2. Margaret b. 1656 | 6. Lydia b. 1665 |
| 3. Anna b. 1658; d. 1659 (1y) | 7. Julia b. 1666; d. 1666 |
| 4. Thomas b. 1659 | 8. Samuel b. 1667; d 1667 |

Children of Thomas Bancroft and Hannah Gardner

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Ruth b. 1670; md. Stiles | 3. Nathaniel b. 1683; md. Ruth Hale |
| 2. Rebecca b. 1680; md. Samuel Gillett | 4. John b. 1684 |

2. **John Stewart:**

BIRTH: Scotland

DEATH: 1690 Springfield, Massachusetts.

BIOGRAPHY: A thrifty and bustling Scotsman whose early adventures make him an interesting character. He was in the service of the marquis of Montrose who raised an army in the Scottish Highlands and waged war in behalf of the king. John Stewart was engaged in five battles till the tide turned against the cause he was serving. The royal army was then under David Leslie and had more than double the numbers of that commanded by Cromwell. Confident of success, Leslie left his entrenchments at Dunbar and marched to the open plain when Cromwell seized the opportune moment and won the day, capturing the entire army not already slain in the engagement. Many of the prisoners of war were deported; John Stewart was among that number. On coming into England, he was sold to service and John Pynchon was the purchaser. In the State Archives of Boston, MA is a statement made by John Stewart regarding his service to the King and also some of his hardships here. As Stewart was a capable blacksmith, he began his career in Springfield as a servant to the Pynchon family. Pynchon sold him a house and orchard in return for smithy work; providing all the smithy tools he needed.

In 1658, the shop was given to Stewart by the town and he served as smithy for many years. One of his public duties was to see that all swine in the town above three months old were ringed and he was to go twice every week through the town to take notice what swine were unringed and to ring them for 6d. If they refused, they

would be fined by the constable who would also receive 3d for his trouble.

There are several court cases involving John Stewart. He served as a witness with Charles Ferry that John Earle did strike William Morgan and broke his nose in 1660. Again in 1661 Charles Ferry and John Stewart testified that they saw Joseph Leonard sporting and laughing in sermon time on the Sabbath and that he often misbehaved himself in the same way. John Stewart served on the inquest jury to determine the cause of death of little Ebenezer Harmon who drowned in the brook at the age of three. (1661) In 1662, John Stewart was fined for playing cards. In Sep 1671, John Stewart was accused of stabbing John Bliss and endangering his life for which he was quickly put into prison. John Stewart refused to confess against himself although he did not deny the fact. The court limited itself to a "*serious admonition*" since Stewart had suffered commitment to prison already and had apparently effected a settlement with Bliss--also the charge was not legally proved against him. In 1679, John Stewart and Isack Gleson served as sureties that Phillip Mattoone would keep the peace towards all men (he was accused of striking John Pope on the head and displacing his jaw bone and abusing him by word) and that Philip would appear at the next county court.

John Stewart, the town blacksmith, lost his lands and his house due to indebtedness to the Pynchons in 1669. John Stewart rented all his tools and materials from "*1 greate anvill*" down to "*a spring lock*" and "*21 pairs of horseshoes.*" Pynchon allowed Stewart to continue living in the house until midsummer. Stewart agreed to "*stub cleare and bring to Mowing about an acre and ½ or 2 acres of land*" and for so doing he was to have the use of it for 3 years. In 1688, he was bedridden and ill. At this time, he petitioned the Governor for the loss of a horse he had been required to use in pursuit of Indians. He was able to overcome his days of poverty as at his death in 1690, he had an estate valued at L255.

3. James Warrener: (-23) (Age 15 in 1655)

BIRTH: 21 Nov 1640 Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts Son of William and Johanna (Searle) Warrener.

MARRIAGE: (1) Elizabeth BALDWIN 31 Mar 1664 Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts

(2) 10 Jul 1689 Sarah ALVORD, daughter of Alexander (3) 29 Dec 1704 Mary STEBBINS, dau of John Stebbins and Mary Graves.

DEATH: 14 May 1727 at the age of 87 in Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts

BIOGRAPHY: James was sworn the Constable of Springfield 28 Aug 1670. Served as a Selectman in 1698.

CHILDREN of James Warriner and Elizabeth Baldwin:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Samuel b. 1666; d. 1667 | 6. Joseph b. 1677; md. Hannah Bliss |
| 2. James b. 1668; md. Sarah Thomas | 7. Samuel b. 1679; md. Abigail Day |
| 3. Elizabeth b. 1670; md. Henry Burt | 8. Ebenezer b. 1682; md. Joanna Dickinson |
| 4. William b. 1672; md. Elizabeth Weller | 9. Mary b. 1685; md. Increase Sikes |
| 5. Hannah b. 1674; md. Daniel Graves | 10. Daughter stillborn about 1687. |

CHILDREN of James Warriner and Sarah Alford:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sarah b. 1690; md. Ebenezer Thomas | 4. Benjamin b. 1698; md. Mercy Bartlett |
| 2. Jonathan b. 1692; md. Mercy Burnham | 5. David b. 1701; md. Mary Sikes |
| 3. John b. 1694; d. 1696 | |

4. Obadiah Miller:

BIOGRAPHY: In March of 1655, Obadiah Miller complained in court that Joane, his wife, abused him with reproachful terms or names as calling him fool, toad, vermine, and threatening him; also she fell upon him and beat him and scratched his hands and face. John Lamb testified that he heard her say she would knock him on the head and she did often call him fool and other reproachful terms; Thomas Miller testified that when his brother, Obadiah, and his wife lived with him he often heard her call him names and she said she did not love him; but she hated him. For her vile behavior towards her husband she was taken forth to the whipping post to receive so many stripes on the naked body as the commissioners should see cause to inflict upon her. She was brought forth, but made earnest protestations for better carriage towards her husband and so the punishment was remitted but she was told that for the least miscarriage towards Obadiah she should be brought forth again to receive a good whipping on the naked body. In 1692, Samuel Barnard (prentice to Obadiah Miller) was in court for throwing stones at glass windows. He denied it and was admonished and discharged.

CHILDREN: of Obadiah Miller and Joane:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Lazarus b. 1655; md. Mary Burbank | 3. Joanna b. 1669; md. John Barber, Jr. |
| 2. Obadiah b. 1658; md. (1) Benedicta Lawton;
(2) Dorothy Chapin | |

5. Symon Sackett: (Simon) (-13) (Age 25 in 1655)

BIRTH: abt 1630 in Bristol, England.

MARRIAGE: 1652. Sarah Bloomfield, daughter of William and Sarah.

DEATH: The Springfield Simon died 9 Jul 1659 when administration of his estate was granted to his widow, Sarah, with William Blomefield of Hartford as assistant to his daughter, Sarah, widow of deceased. The estate was valued at over 39 pounds. Still in 1662, there were a couple court entries regarding debts from the estate that William Blomefield assisted the Widow Sackett with.

BIOGRAPHY: Simon's father was in Cambridge, a proprietor in 1633; says he came on Ship Lyon;--died prior to 1635 when administration was granted to widow, Isabel, mother of Simon Jr.

CHILD: of Simon Sackett and Sarah Bloomfield:

1. Samuel b. 1653; d. 1653

6. **Nathaniel Burt:** (-9) (Age 19 in 1655)

BIRTH: 23 May 1636/7 Haberton, Devon, England son of Henry Burt and Eulaliah Marche.

MARRIAGE: 15 Jan 1663 Rebecca SIKES, dau of Richard Sikes and Phebe Green.

DEATH: 29 Sep 1720 Springfield, MA

CHILDREN: of Nathaniel Burt and Rebecca Sikes

1. Nathaniel b. 1663

4. John b. 1670

7. Experience b. 1677

2. Rebecca b. 1665

5. Sarah b. 1673; d. 1673 (14d)

8. Dorcus b. 1680

3. David b. 1668

6. Sarah b. 1675

7. **Hugh Dudley:**

BIRTH: From Scotland

MARRIAGE: 30 Oct 1656 Mary Copsey

BIOGRAPHY: Hugh Dudley of Barnett was indentured by William Pyncheon on 29 April 1650 to Henry Smith of Springfield for the term of 5 years. Both Dudley and his wife became servants to the Pyncheon family. Termination of his indenture did not end his dependence on the Pynchons who tried to help him establish himself. On 16 Nov 1663, "*for this debt of Twelve Pounds Seven shillings,*" Dudley "doth ingage and make over to me for my security his 3rd division Lot over the Great River containing Ten acres...and also five acres...both which parsell and land are to stand formally mortgaged to me for this debt." On 14 Dec 1666, John Pyncheon assumed formal ownership of this land. "I have recd by land viz Hugh Duley's howse and Lot 7 acres and ½ over the grt River...and so cleare my books;" In 1669, John Pyncheon took 4 acres of Land at Westfield for what "Hugh Dudly owes me,". In 1670, for debts of L7.10.0, John Pyncheon took Dudly's 2 acres of land at Westfield.

In June 1660 Hugh Dudley complained against Thomas Merick "*for not performinge covenante in plowinge up*" a half acre of ground in the previous month at plaintiff's demand as by the covenant presented appears. Dudley pleaded great damages and that he still expected the plowing to be done. The commissioners adjudged that Merick pay ten shillings in damages and also plow up the half acre by the next May.

8. **Samuel Bliss:** (-25)

BIRTH: abt 1642 son of Thomas and Margaret Hullins. (Brother of Nathaniel)

MARRIAGE: 10 Nov 1665 Mary Leonard, dau of John and Sarah (Heath) Leonard.

DEATH: 19 Jun 1749 Springfield, Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts

BIOGRAPHY: In May 1671 an Indian was found guilty for breaking into Samuel Bliss' house on the Sabbath and stealing some wampum. His wife says it was in her own purse and the other part of it was an Indian woman's which she left with them and was in the woman's bag. The Indian admitted to taking the wampam and because the Indian did this on the Sabbath day and entered into the house he was sentenced to pay his spare coat plus all the wampum he had on him and also sentenced to be well whipped with 20 lashes.

Samuel Bliss was sworn in as constable on 19 Aug 1674. In 1690, John Crowfoote and John Buck were complained of for being drunk and being abusive in their carriage and also being out after the ten o'clock watch at night. When asked where they got the drink, John Crowfoote said, "*I had it of Old Samuel Bliss in Towne; Old Samuel Bliss that kept the Ordinary; I had it of him last Wednesday and paid him for it before I had it. I paid him in corne, a bushel of mislen wheat and rye he had of me for it, and at night I and John Buck drank some of it....*" Inasmuch as Bliss had no license to sell, he was ordered to come into court.

In 1693, Samuel's nephew Ebenezer Scot, was being disorderly and running away from Samuel Terry, his father-in-law (meaning his mother's husband). Samuel Bliss was present at the court and consented to the plan that was laid out by the court for his nephew.

CHILDREN: of Samuel Bliss and Mary Leonard:

1. Hannah b. 1666

5. Martha b. 1674

9. Ebenezer b. 1683

2. Thomas b. 1668

6. Sarah b. 1677

10. Margaret A. b. 1684

3. Mary b. 1670

7. Experience b. 1679

11. Esther b. 1688

4. Jonathan b. 1672

8. Mercy b. 1680

9. William Morgan:

BIRTH: No known relationship with Miles Morgan.

BIOGRAPHY: In July 1660, William Morgan complained against John Earle for striking him with a bowl upon his face and nose and breaking his nose. William was awarded five shillings for the damage. William Morgan in 1661 testified that he saw Samuel Harmon thrust and tickle Jonathan Morgan (a son of Miles) and pluck him out of his seat and squeeze him and made him cry at sermon time last Sabbath. Samuel was fined for his behavior.

10. Lawrence Bliss: (-6 - 11) (Age 27 - 32 in 1655)

BIRTH: 1628 in England, son of Thomas Bliss and Margaret Hulins. His brother is Nathaniel and his mother is known on Springfield records as the Widow Margaret Bliss.

MARRIAGE: Lydia Wright, daughter of Samuel Wright and Margaret Stratton.

DEATH: 8 Nov 1676 at Springfield. His widow remarried John Norton in 1678.

BIOGRAPHY: Lawrence was a freeman in 1663.

CHILD of Lawrence Bliss and Lydia Wright: (There are probably others)

1. Samuel b. 1660/62

11. Jeremy Horton: (-22) (16 years of age in 1655)

BIRTH: abt. 1639 Jeremiah Horton, son of Thomas and Mary.

MARRIAGE: 3 Aug 1661 Ruth Ely; Mary Wright

BIOGRAPHY: Thomas Horton witnessed the Indian deed in 1636. His widow, Mary, was examined in 1640 for selling her husband's piece to the Indians. She made a marriage contract with Robert Ashley on 7 Aug 1641, reserving the rights of her son, Jarmy (Jeremiah) three years old and her other son, an infant. See Robert Ashley.

12. James Taylor:

MARRIAGE: 17 Jan. 1667/8 Mary Taylor daughter of Jonathan & Mary.

DEATH: 27 Oct. 1720.

BIOGRAPHY: 1 Feb 1654/55, he began his career in Springfield as a servant to John Pynchon. Taylor agreed to accept wages of L4.0.0 in lieu of John Pynchon's finding him clothes. Rented from Pynchon from 1667-1698; freeman; married by 1667; landless in 1685. A James Taylor drew a map on 6 June 1672 showing boundaries between Mass and Conn. There was much controversy at the time regarding the boundaries and the General Court ordered a map be drawn up. In 1679, James Taylor was the Marshal of Springfield.

CHILDREN of James Taylor and Mary Taylor:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Rebecca, b 1668; d 1668/9 | 7. Jonathan, b 1679; m Sarah Knowlton |
| 2. James, b 1669; m Dorothy Rogers | 8. Ebenezer, b 1681; d. 1689 |
| 3. Mary, b 1671; m John Petty | 9. Thomas, b. 10 Jan. 1683/4, d 17 June 1703 |
| 4. John, b 1672/3; d 1673 | 10. Samuel, b 1686, m Ruth Smith & Joanna Smith |
| 5. Samuel, b 26 Sept. 1674 | 11. Rebecca, b 1689 |
| 6. Elizabeth, b 5 Jan. 1678; d. 1710 | |

13. Edward Foster:

BIRTH: from Scotland. Son of Edward and Dionis Foster.

MARRIAGE: m 26 Dec. 1661 Hester Bliss, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Hullins Bliss; She d. 1683 and he married (2) Widow Sarah Miller (Thomas). Sarah died in 1708.

DEATH: 22 Feb. 1719/20.

BIOGRAPHY: In 1650, Edmund Foster, alias Edward Foster of Barnett, was apprenticed to Elizur Holyoke by William Pynchon of Springfield for the term of nine years. Foster and his wife, Mary Bliss, performed manual labor for John Pynchon. He paid L153 for 36 contract years from 1667-1698. On 27 Mar 1668, John Pynchon let out to Edward Foster 4 acres of land in the Spring Bottom for 30s; and a home lot of 3 12 acres for 3 years. He also leased 5 acres on Black Pond, land over the river and 5 acres at Cold Spring Bottom.

In 1661, Edward was charged with playing cards with Jon Scot, John Bag, and Thomas Miller at John Henryson's house. They were caught in the act by William Brookes. John Henryson's wife, Martha, had a pack of cards that she brought from Hartford with her. Her husband said: *"they did play at cards at my house but I did not so well know the Law against it and I was willing to have recreation for my wife to drive away melancholy."* All the players were fined five shillings; but John was fined 20 shillings for allowing that unlawful game of cards to be played in his house and Martha was fined five shillings for playing and another ten shillings for lying.

Edward and his wife Sarah deeded inhabitants of West Side of River, land for burying ground on road to Cold Spring. See deed B-221. his deed has no date but was evidently drawn up before her death. It is acknowledged 29 Mar. 1711 and recorded 9 Apr. 1711.

14. **John Sackett:**

MARRIAGE: Abigail Hannum on 3 Nov 1659 in Northhampton..

BIOGRAPHY: In 1661, John Sackett was fined forty shillings for selling liquor to the Indians and one hundred pounds for violating the law against trading for furs with the Indians. John Sackett plead that those deer and bear skins were traded over a year ago and his fine was remitted; however, he is to behave himself in the future or these court records shall stand as a witness against him, to which he agreed. In 1679, John Sackett filed charges against James Sexton for beating and wounding his son, William Sackett. William was at the pound door and some of the hogs were in the pound. Sexton gave William three blows with his fist and took him by the throat and hindered him putting the rest of the hogs into the pound. In 1659. The Selectmen of the town complained that John Sackett had not kept his bargain to thatch the town barn.

CHILD of John Sackett and Abigail Hammum:

1. William

15. **Josiah Chapin:**

Son of Samuel and Cisely Chapin. Brother of Samuel who was b. at Springfield 1659. Cisely Chapin's will in 1683, mentions Josiah of Braintree, Mass..

16. **Abell Wright:**

BIRTH: son of John Wright and Jane Richall.

MARRIAGE: 1659 to Martha Kitcherell, daughter of Samuel and Martha Kitcherell. Martha's mother was the second wife of **Anthony Dorchester**. When Martha (1st) died, Anthony married **Elizabeth Harmon**, widow of **John Harmon**--of whom this book is about. In the settlement of Anthony's estate, it states: "*Martha, wife of Abel Wright...claimed something for what her mother, the relict of Samuel Kitcherell, once of Hartford, brought to the late Anthony Dorchester.*" Book of Possessions states that Abel Wright is possessed of certain lands by grant of his "father-in-law" **Anthony Dorchester**. Abel's wife, Martha, was scalped 26 Jul 1708 and died 19 Oct 1708.

DEATH: 29 Oct 1725 in Springfield, Hampden, Massachusetts.

BIOGRAPHY: Served as a selectman for 2 terms; militia lieutenant and deputy to the General Court. Abell served on the inquest jury regarding the death of young Ebenezer Harmon who drowned in the brook.

Abel paid 56 L for 31 contract years of renting from John Pynchon between 1668-1686. On 25 Mar 1668, Abel Wright leased a "*yoak of cattle*" for L2 annually, plus rates; five days later, John Pynchon :let out to hire to Abel Wright for 3 yeares that land at Skeepnuck which I lately (2 days ago) took of Goodman Dorchester, namely the 4 acres of plowed up ground within the fence and also the meadow without the fence." for L1.18.0 annually for 3 years. Wright was given the first option to purchase the said land if he had the means to do so at the end of the rental agreement. Wright held the lease for 18 years. He also leased from Pynchon, a bullock, a 5 ½ acre lot, another lot of undetermined size, and 1 ¾ acres near Round Hill. In 1668, Wright sold to Pynchon 40 acres of land at Ashkanucksit for L3. Wright was indebted to Pynchon in the 1680s for L93.5.7..

On 27 Dec 1674--the Sabbath--a child between 3 and 4 of Abell Wright's called Henry, came to its end. The inquest jury found that "*the child went out to a sled without the doors and endeavoring to get up upon the sled halfe loaden with wood, a log rolled downe on the child and the log falling on the childe which was a heavy log, the child thereby came to its end; the log lying upon the child when it was found dead.*"

In 1693, Lieutenant Wright was chosen to represent Springfield in the Council of Freeholders.

CHILDREN: of Abel Wright and Martha Kitcherell:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Joseph md. Sarah Osborn | 6. Henry d. 1674 | 11. Elizabeth d. 1683 |
| 2. Martha md. Thomas Marlow | 7. Sarah md Thomas Chapin | 12. John d. 1685 |
| 3. Abel md Rebecca Terry | 8. Mary md Nathaniel Bliss | 13. Elizabeth md Ebenezer Dewey |
| 4. Benjamin md Mary Chapin | 9. Henry md Hannah Bliss | |
| 5. Hannah md Joseph Sexton | 10. Samuel md Mary Case | |

17. **Richard Maund:**

The only references I find to Richard Maund is when he served as a witness to several indentures in 1650 along with Elizur Holyoke and Henry Smith and John Benham.

18. **John Riley:**

MARRIAGE: Margaret d. 22 Aug 1689.

DEATH: 24 Oct 1684

BIOGRAPHY: John Riley of Springfield was bound by Pyncheon in the sum of twenty pounds for his daughter Margarite's appearance at court (date not stated) *"to answer to her foul crime of fornication. The court being desirous to bear due Testimony against this Growing and provoking sin of whoredom and to restrain the like abhorred practices,"* ordered the offender to be whipped with fifteen lashes or pay a fine of four pounds. Roco, a Negro, being examined by Mr. Pyncheon, acknowledged to him that he had "upon said Riley's tempting him, had carnal knowledge of her body." He was sentenced to fifteen lashes or a fine of three pounds. (This may have been John Pyncheon's Negro, Roco, who married another Negro, Sue, on 1 Dec 1687) His daughter Margaret had an illegitimate daughter in 1680.

CHILDREN of John Riley and Margaret:

1. Margarite b. 1661; md. William Mack Cranney
2. Mary b. 1665; md. Joseph Ely

19. **Anthony Dorchester:**

MARRIAGE: (1) Sarah ____; (2) Martha Chapman Kitcherell; (3) Elizabeth ____ Harmon

DEATH: Anthony d. 28 Aug 1683. Inventory presented 1683 by son John. Agreement made between sons John and James; grandchildren: Benjamin, dau Mary, wife of **John Harmon**; dau Sarah wife of Joseph Stebbins; and daughter-in-law Martha, (meaning daughter of his wife by a previous marriage) wife of Abel Wright, who claimed something for what her mother, the relict of Samuel Kitchell (Kitcherell), once of Hartford, brought to the late **Anthony Dorchester**.

BIOGRAPHY: Was in Windsor, CT 1644; removed to Springfield; proprietor 1649. Anthony was a miller, a ferrier, and a town officer. Dorchester leased John Pyncheon's corn and saw mills for L13 annually. He only held the corn mill for one year, 1653; but in 1669 he leased it again, this time for a rental payment of L18. He held this lease until 1672 and possibly after that. He also leased oxen and 5 acres of land. He lost the oxen to John Pyncheon for debts. In 1673, he leased the saw mill. Performed extensive tasks as teamster and laborer; carried corn, brought up goods from the foot of the falls; sawed, ferried, scoured the ditch, etc.

Anthony Dorchester, who with his wife, Martha, resided with the Hugh Parsons, testified during the witch trials that Parsons *"never feared either to grieve or displease his wife any time."* Dorchester declared that "I saw nothing Parsons did to comfort his wife, but he did often blame her that she did not throw corn." Also Hugh was angry because Mary Parsons helped Mrs. Dorchester without bringing any profit in for him. Parson's mistreatment of his wife went beyond requiring her to work in the fields while pregnant. He had many misdeeds and anti-social behaviors towards his neighbors. Meat mysteriously disappeared from **Anthony Dorchester's** kettle. (See Hugh Parsons)

Concerning the lower warfe, **Anthony Dorchester** was appointed and ordered to call the neighbors at ye lower end of towne together from Cornelius Williams to consider what may be advantageous and good for putting a gate on the warfe..

In the court records, we find Anthony serving as witness a few time; also he and Jonathan Taylor were charged with not being present on the Lecture Day (military) and he was fined. Widow Bliss complained that Dorchester's swine did damage to her Indian corn in 1653. On July 1, 1681---after he would have been married to my grandmother ancestor, **Elizabeth Harmon**---**Anthony Dorchester** saith *"That today about noon this Negro came to his house asking for a pipe of tobacco which I told him there was some on the table. He took my knife and cut come and then put it in his pocket After that I took down a cutlass and offered to draw it, but it coming out stiff I closed in upon him and so bound him with the help of my wife and daughter. When he scrambling in his pocket I suspected he might have a knife and searching found my knife naked in his pocket which he would fain have got our but I prevented him and took it away."* The Negro was committed to prison. His name was Negro Jacke and he was in prison for two weeks.

Anthony Dorchester was a laborer of Springfield who performed many services for John Pyncheon. He was a freeman of the Bay Colony. He was paid for carrying horses over (the River) for the Ausatin voyage: a journey to Ausatinnoag between 22 Mar 1660/61 and 29 Dec 1662. In 1669, at a meeting of selectmen, youthful indiscretions inside the meetinghouse was discussed. Miles Morgan and Jonathan Burt were ordered to sit in ye Gallery to give check to the disorders in youth and young men in tyme of Gods worship. **Anthony Dorchester** is to sit in ye Guard Seate for ye like end.

In 1673, Nathaniel Prichard made a complaint against Obediah Cooley saying that his dog and Goodman Dorchester's dog had killed a sheep. Dorchester promptly hanged his dog, but Cooley refused to do so until ordered by the court. Witnesses were Nathaniel Prichard and James Stevenson.

15 Apr 1674: At a town meeting it was decided to build a new meetinghouse and it was voted that Sergant Stebbins lot was selected as the place for which he was given four acres of land. The meeting house shall be fifty feet long, forty foote and a halfe wide and the house shall be under-pined with stone two foot and a half above ground. Built high enough to accommodate for galleries when the need arises. The committee or workmen included: Major Pyncheon, Elizur Holyoke, Nathaniel Ely, **Anthony Dorchester**, and Jonathan Burt.

His first wife, Sarah, was buried 9 (9) 1649. His 2nd wife, Martha, d. 1662. Anthony's 3rd wife was the widow, **Elizabeth Harmon**--widow of John of whom this book is about. She outlived him by 16 years.

CHILDREN: of **Anthony Dorchester** and Sarah:

1. John b. 1644; md. Mary Harmon
2. Mary b. 1645; md. **John Harmon**
3. James b. 1648; md. Sarah Parsons

of Anthony and Martha Chapman Kitcherell

1. Benjamin b. 1651; md. Sarah Burt
2. Sarah b. 1653; md. Joseph Stebbins
3. Hester b. 1656; d. 1662 (7y)

20. **Francis Pepper:**

DEATH: Will dated 1685. At his death his estate was L155 of which L122 was in the form of labor credits he had earned working for John Pynchon. Beq. to cousins, Joseph, Samuel, Marah, Benjamin, and Jeremiah Northrop, who are specified in probate papers as living at Seaside, Connecticut.

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield proprietor 1645. Lived as a boarder in the Pynchon house. Began working for John Pynchon during the early 1650s. Pepper tended Pynchon's sheep; worked at the mill, did labor of various types. Later he rented one of Pynchon's farms. Francis Pepper, John Stebbins, and Mistress Smith engaged William Brookes to collect money owed them in 1653. Because Brookes did not do as he was supposed to do and instead defrauded them, he was committed to the custody of the Constable.

21. **John Horton:** (-23) (Age 15 in 1655)

BIRTH: Probably the infant son of Mary and Thomas for whom she reserved their rights when she made marriage contract with Robert Ashley in 1641.

MARRIAGE: m Abigail Fisher, dau of Daniel.

BIOGRAPHY: John Horton, Thomas Thompson, and Samuel Holyoke were each fined or sentenced to be whipped on the naked body for profaning the Lord's Day by making a fray in the street in the evening about ½ hour after sunset. Had seat in boys' Seat in Church in 1663 and had gone away in 1690. He went to Dedham, Mass., wrote his name Holton,

22. **John Earle:**

John Earle struck William Morgan with a bowl upon his face and nose and broke his nose. He was taken to court and fined for damage to the bowl and also for behavior toward William Morgan.



IX

Refusal to Take Oath Again (1655)

And these underwritten did the same day before the Company affirme that they did on a Training day some yeeres past viz., while Mr. William Pynchon was here in the Countrey, take this oath of fidelity, though their names be not on record; and therefore they were not willing to take the oath agayne: The persons were:

John Dumbleton

Nathaniel Prichard

Symon Bemon

Thomas Miller

1. **John Dumbleton:**

MARRIAGE: Mercy

John d 27 July 1702. Widow Mercy d 4 July 1704.

BIOGRAPHY: John Dumbleton served on the jury several times; was a corporal in the military and a freeman. Served as a selectman for 16 terms. Rented from Pynchons for many years: 1652-1692. In Feb 1672/3, John Dumbleton Jr. was admonished for his uncivil, immodest, and beastly acting. His companions, Samuel Terry, Timothy Cooper, John Holtum, and Isack Morgan; Samuel Taylor, Benjamin Leonard, Thomas Miller, and Benjamin Dunnidge all received fines. Young Goodman Dumbleton (John Jr.) & two sons of Goodman Brooks (William & John) were killed by Indians at Westfield, Mass. 27 Oct. 1675.

CHILDREN of John Dumbleton and Mercy:

1. John , b 1650; m Lydia Leonard
2. Mercy b 1652; m Samuel Bodurtha
3. Sarah b 1654; m Josiah Leonard
4. Samuel b 1657; d 1657
5. Samuel b 1658
6. Lydia b 1661; m Jonathan Burt & Daniel Cooley

7. Nathaniel b 1664; m Hannah Allin
8. Rebecca, b 1667; m Joseph Leonard
9. Mary, m Joseph Bodurtha
10. Elizabeth, m Nathaniel Burt
11. Hannah, m Thomas Merrick Jr.

2. **Thomas Miller:** (See Obadiah Miller--brother of Thomas)

MARRIAGE: Sarah Marshfield in 1649. She was the sister of Samuel.

DEATH: Thomas Miller killed by Indians 5 Oct. 1675 at burning of Springfield. His widow md. Edward Foster.

BIOGRAPHY: In 1650 Thomas Miller received fifteen lashes for breach of the peace in striking an Indian with the butt end of his gun. However, Miller avoided the whipping by paying down four fathom of wampum (beads made of shells strung together and used by the Indians for money or ornaments).

There was a court appearance on Nov 30, 1659 when John Henryson complained against Thomas Miller for detaining a cart from him which he claimed he had a right to. Thomas struck John in the mouth making it bleed; used reproachful speeches calling him Scottish dog; etc. John Henryson threatened Miller that either he or Thomas Miller should die before he should have the cart. Both were fined and put under a bond of good behavior; but since they became reconciled to each other, the bond was not required.

May 9, 1660 Thomas Miller complained against certain Indians that came to his house and scared his wife and children by throwing sticks at them. One of the Indians struck his wife on the head with his fist and she fell down with the blow. Thomas laid hold on the Indian and another Indian laid hold on Thomas- and struck diverse blows while he and the Indian were struggling. The Indians were pursued and some caught and returned to be fined in wampam. (Beads) Thomas Miller was one of several apprehended for playing cards. (See Edward Foster)

On the west side of the Connecticut River in 1652, there was a grant to Thomas Miller: "*that vacant parcel of planting ground over the great river by the higher wigwam, provided he bee not an occasion of troble and disturbance to the Plantation by an unwise clashing with the Indians; if so, he shall forfeit the sayd land into the Towne hands.*"

CHILDREN of Thomas Miller and Sarah Marshfield:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Sarah, b 1650; m Jonathan Ball | 7. Deborah, b 1662; m James Gerald |
| 2. Thomas, b 1653; m Rebecca Leonard | 8. Martha, b & d 1664 |
| 3. Samuel, b 1655; m Ruth Beamon & Widow Katherine Halliday | 9. Martha, b 1665; m John Ferry |
| 4. John, b 1657; m Mary Beamon | 10. Ebenezer, b 1667; m Hannah Keep |
| 5. Joseph, b & d 1659 | 11. Mehitable, b 1669; m John Clemens |
| 6. Josias, b & d 1660 | 12. Joseph, b & d 1671 |
| | 13. Experience, b 1673; m Samuel Frost |

3. **Nathaniel Prichard:**

BIRTH: son of Roger and Frances Prichard

MARRIAGE: (1) Hannah Lanckton; (2) Hannah (or Elizabeth) Davis, widow of Samuel of Northampton

DEATH: Left Springfield shortly after 1691/92.

BIOGRAPHY: Nathaniel Prichard's land adjoins that of **John Harmon** and Nathaniel Bliss. It was in Nathaniel Prichard's yard that young Ebenezer Harmon, age 3, was found dead in the brook. An inquest jury found the cause of death to be by the child's own weakness and not the act of any other person. In 1673, Nathaniel Prichard made a complaint against Obediah Cooley saying that his dog and Goodman Dorchester's dog had killed a sheep. Dorchester promptly hanged his dog, but Cooley refused to do so until ordered by the court. Witnesses were Nathaniel Prichard and James Stevenson.

CHILD of Nathaniel Prichard and ?:

Joseph b. 1691/92

4. **Symon Bemon:**

MARRIAGE: Alice Young in 1654.

DEATH: 1675

BIOGRAPHY: Began his career in Springfield as a servant to Pynchon; teamster; made seven voyages down the falls in 1655. Lost ten acres to Pynchon for debts; also lost his cow and had to rent it from Pynchon for 20s yearly. In 1650 Henry Smith took the evidence of Symon Beamon, a Pynchon servant, on 20 May. This testimony and related testimony of Jonathan Taylor were accusations regarding Hugh Parsons witchcraft. A deposition by Symon Beamon, quondam (means former) Pynchon servant, made Sept 19, 1656 in Parsons vs Bridgeman, relates that "*about the time that witches were apprehended to be sent to Boston, Mr. Moxon's children were taken ill with fits (which we took to be bewitched.)*" Simon Beamon swears on April 17, 1661 that on the Lord's day he saw Joseph Leonard come to Samuel Harmon at the meetinghouse door and beate off his hat and then run away and afterward came to him again and offered to kick at him and run away and then Samuel Harmon ran after him. Hannah Chapin saith that she saw Joseph Leonard one Sabbath day and Samuel Harmon whip and whisk one another with a stick before the meetinghouse in sermon time. Joseph Leonard was fined for his misdemeanor on the Sabbath.

CHILDREN of Symon Bemon and Alice Young:

1. Simon; m Hannah Barnard Westcarr
2. John, b 1657, m Abigail Eggleston
3. Daniel b 1659; d 1741
4. Thomas b & d 1660
5. Josiah, b 1662, m Martha ? & Lydia Warner
6. Benjamin, b.1781; m Hannah Huggins
7. Samuel, m Margaret.
8. Mehitabel, d 1670
9. Daughter, b 1675
- 10 Abigail, m Obadiah Baldwin
11. Alice, m Nathaniel Baldwin
12. Ruth, m Samuel Miller
13. Mary, m John Miller



X

Seating in the Meetinghouse

23 Dec 1659:

Henry Burt in the little seate by the Deacons seate

1st Seate: Robert Ashley; Tho Cooper; Rowland Stebbins; George Coulton; Benjamin Cooley

2nd Seate: Richard Sikes, Thomas Merrick; William Warriner; Richard Fellowes

3rd Seate: Tho. Stebbins; Myles Morgan; **John Harmon**; John Leonard; Ben Munn; **Anthony Dorchester**

4th Seate: Tho Gilbert; Jonathan Burt; Ben Parsons: John Dumbleton; Will Branch; Sam Marshfield.

5th Seate: John Matthews; Rowland Thomas; Reece Bedortha; John Clarke; John Lamb; Thomas Day.

6th Seate: John Lumbard; Lawrence Bliss; Griffith Jones; Thomas Miller; Nathaniel Prichett; Richard Excell

7th Seate: Tho. Bancroft; Jonath Taylor; John Stewart; John Scott; Will Brooks; James Osbourne

8th Seate: Symon Bemon; Thomas Noble; James Warriner; Francis Pepper; Obadiah Miller; Nath. Burt

9th Seate: Abell Wright; Hugh Dudley; John Bagg; John Sackett; David Ashley; Sam Bliss; John Riley

10th Seate: Japhat Chapin; John Harmon (Jr.); Sam Harmon; James Taylor: John Henrison; Edward Foster; Peter Swink the rest of the younger persons that wants yeares are to sit on the other side of the alley in the seate next to the stairs.

Seating Order 23 Feb 1662:

(After the death of **John Harmon**; shows where his children are seated)

Goodwife Chapin is to sit in the seate alonge with Mrs Glover and Mrs. Hollyock.

1st Seate: Robert Ashley, Benja Cooley; Tho. Cooper; George Colton and Rowland Stebbins

2nd Seate: Nathaniel Ely; Rich Sikes; Tho Mirack; Will Warriner

3rd Seate: Serj Stebbins; Serja Morgan; Benj Munn; John Leonard; **Anthony Dorchester**; Sam Marshfield

4th Seate: Benja Parsons, Jonath Burt; Wm Branch; Reice Bedortha; Jo Dumbleton; Rowland Thomas

5th Seate: John Mathews, Jo Clarke, John Lamb, Sam Bliss; Tho Miller; Tho Day

6th Seate: John Lumbard; Griffith Jones; N. Prichard; Rich Excell; Tho Noble; Sam Ely

7th Seate: Johath Taylor; Tho Bancroft; John Scot; Nath Burt; John Stewart; Wm Brookes

8th Seate: Jer Horton; Jo Bag; Jo Riley: Symon Beamon; Abell Wright

9th Seate: John Henryson; Sam Terry; Obadiah Miller; Hugh Dudley

10th Seate: Jo. Crowfotte; Edw Foster; **Charles Ferry**; James Osborne; Wm Hunter;

In ye fore seate of ye Gallery:

In ye upper part above ye pillars on the south side:
Frances Pepper, James Warriner, Sam Bliss

Below ye pillars on ye north side:

Sam Holyoke, David Ashly; Japht Chapin; Tim Cooper; Isaac Colton; Obadi Cooley

On ye On ye south side below ye pillars:

Thomas Cooper, Jun, Joseph Warriner, John Leonard, **John Harmon, Samuel Harmon**, Increase Sikes, **John Dorchester**

In ye seate in ye gallery with faces agt ye minister:

Ephriam Colton, Eliakim Cooley, Jonathan Morgan, Samuel Stebbins, **James Dorchester**.

In ye backer seate of ye gallery on the North side at the upper end of it:

James Taylor, John Horton, Hugh Mackey, William Morgan.

On ye south side at ye upper end of the backer seate:

Jonathan Ball, Samuel Ball, **Joseph Harmon**, Nathaniel Sikes, Thomas Thompson

In ye backer seate above the pillars on the north side:

John Hitchcock, John Clarke, John Lombard, Samuel Bliss,

On the South Side:

Joseph Thomas, Thomas Stebbins, **Joseph Dorchester**, Joseph Bedortha

The Galley:

In ye upper seate above ye pillar on ye north side:

Henry Chapin, John Bliss, John Keepe

In ye upper pt above ye pillars on ye south side:

Francis Pepper, James Warriner, Samuel Bliss.

Below ye pillars on ye North side:

Samuel Holyoke, David Ashley, Jonathan Ashley, Japhat Chapin, Timothy Cooper, Isack Colton, Obadi Cooley

From the 1659 Seating, these have not previously been identified:

Richard Fellowes:

BIOGRAPHY: December 2d 1661. Before Lieutenant Holyoke and John Pynchon:

Richard Fellowes Cornplaines against William Warrinar for withholding pay for his man Harmon Rowleys victualls at Chikkuppy as he passed to and from the Lead mines: to the vallue of which William Warrinar ingaged to pay for Upon the Testymonys of John Ginny and Garret Dolley which are on file it appeared that William Warriner had ingaged to pay Richard Fellowes his just demand which being examened and rectified William Warriner is Adjudged to pay Richard Fellowes the sum of eight and twenty shillings and sixpence.

1670 Joseph Leanord and Samuell Fellowes of Hatfeild being Brought before me for Contemptuous Behaviour towards Nathanell Dickenson the Constable of Hatfeild and finding they did contemptuously and in a most Boisterous manner affront the said Constable when he was in discharge of his office. I order the said Leanord and Fellowes to be secured till the morning when the Jaylor is to bring them before me at 8 of the clock. Samuell Fellowes and Joseph Leonard being accused for Selling of Strong liquors to the Indians and for buying Beaver of the Indians without License for which they were both bound over to this Corte by the Worshipfull Captain Pynchon in December last: they both appearing at this Corte and their inditement read, they both desired to be tryed by the Jury: And Soe both the cases being examined openly and committed to the Jury and by them Searched into they brought in their verdicts, That they fynd both the said Samuell Fellowes and Joseph Leonard guilty of selling to the Indians Five pintes of Strong Liquors against the Law page 41. Section 5. and therefore also fynd that they are to pay to the County the summe of Ten pounds: the jury also fynd the said Fellowes and Leonard guilty of buying of the Indians One Skin of Beaver against that Law page 41. Section 4. they produceing noe Lycense Soe to doe, and according to that Law fynd them to pay to the County the summe of One Hundred pounds: These verdicts were received:

And the Corte Ordered the said Samuell Fellowes and Joseph Leonard to pay forthwith to the County Treasurer for the use of the County the tenne pounds for their soe selling of Liquors and they give security for payment thereof.

CHILDREN of Richard Fellowes::

1. (Probably) Samuel Fellowes
2. Mary b. 1650 md. Joseph Leonard
3. possibly Sarah md. Samuel Billing in 1661.

Benjamin Munn

MARRIAGE: 1649 Abigail Ball, widow. of Francis , & daughter of Henry Burt and Eulalia

DEATH: Nov. 1675. Benjamin's widow then md. Lieut. Thomas Stebbins.

BIOGRAPHY: April the 12 th 1649. Know all men that whereas there is a marriage intended to be this day solemnized betweene the Widdow Ball and Benjamin Mun of Hartford: That the said Widdow Ball in the presence and with the consent of the said Benjamin doth condition to pay fourteene pounds in such pay as shall be esteemed worth fourteene pounds to be paid to the two sonns of the said widdow that is to say eight pounds to Jonathan Ball now about 4. yere ould and six pounds to Samuell Ball now about the age of a yere to be paid to them when they shall accomplish the age of twenty yeres and in case either of them dye the other is to have all the said 14£: provided also that if the said Benjamin shall put out the said boyes to be apprenticed to some trade then he shall lay our their said portions for their accommodation and so shall be freed of the said payment at 20 yeaes of age and the said Benjamin doth acknowledge himself to stand bound in the some of 20£ for the true performance of the said conditions: and upon this their agreement I do give them leave to proceed in marriage: The marke of Benjamin Mun X in the presence of me William Pynchon

In 1653, Benjamin Mun was found guilty of taking tobacco in the haycock with Reice Bedortha: March the 3rd, 1652/53. Richard Sikes the sworne presenter for this Towne; doth present Reice Bedortha for Breach of an Order of General Court, namely, For Taking of Tobacco on his Hay Cock: Also Benjamin Mun, for the same offence: We find them Guilty of the plaine breach of the law, which requires them to pay 10s a piece only Richard Sikes who Informed, being to Receive halfe the fine, he releases them of that So that we order each of them to pay .5s according as the Law requires: which is to be paid to the Deacon for the use of the poore.

And May 8 th 1663 Benjamin Mun and William Warrener were made freemen of this Common Wealth.

CHILDREN of Benjamin Munn and Abigail Ball:

1. Abigail, b 1650; m Thomas Stebbins Jr.
2. John, b 1652, m Abigail Parsons
3. Benjamin, b & d 1655
4. James, b 1656; md. Wid. Mary Pantheson
5. Nathaniel, b 1661; m Sarah Chapin

Thomas Gilbert

MARRIAGE: 1655 Katherine Chapin Bliss (widow of Nathaniel Bliss & dau of Deacon Samuel Chapin)

DEATH: 5 June 1662. Widow married Samuel Marshfield.

BIOGRAPHY: Springfield: March: 5 th 1654/5 Concerninge the disposinge of the estate of Katharine Bliss Widdow late wife of Nathaneel Bliss deceased who died intestate. It was Ordered that shee should enjoy all the Estate, left by her said Husband, and that shee may be carefull of the children which shee had by her said Husband which children are for present of very tender yeaes: And it Is further Ordered that when her Eldest Son attaynes to the age of One and Twenty yeaes shee shall pay unto him, the Summ of Eight pounds, and when the Two daughters attayn to the age of sixteen yeaes shee shall pay to each of them the summ of Foure pounds: and Foure pounds to the youngest son at the age of One and Twenty yeaes: And in case any of them dy under such ages aforesaid, the portion or portions of the decease shall be divided equally among the rest: Know all men by these presents that whereas there is a marriage intended to be solemnized between the above mentioned the Widdow Katherine Bliss of this Town, and Thomas Gilbert of Windsor. The said Thomas Gilbert doth for good causes and considerations him hereunto moving covenante and promise, and hereby bynd himself his heires executors and administrators to pay or cause to be paid unto the children above mentioned of the said Widdow their Severall portions in the order above mentioned, and at the severall tymes of payment above mentioned: In witness whereof he hath hereunto sett his hand this 23d of May 1655. The mark of Thomas Gilbert

Signed before us ELIZUR HOLYOKE & SAMUELL CHAPIN

CHILDREN of Thomas Gilbert and Katherine Bliss:

1. Sarah, b 1655; m Samuel Field
2. John, b 1657
3. Thomas, b 1659; m Abilene Marshfield & Anna Bancroft
4. Henry, b 1661; m Elizabeth Marshfield

Benjamin Parsons:

MARRIAGE: Mr. Parsons md. (1) Sarah Vore, dau of Richard of Windsor, who was a member of the Rev. John Warham's church in Dorchester, and accompanied him to Windsor in 1635. She d. at Springfield 1 Jan 1676; He md. 2nd Sarah, relict of John Leonard in 1677.

DEATH: Deacon Parsons d. 24 Aug 1689. Benjamin Parsons' will (Probate Records at Northampton, Vol. 1, page. 269) mentions grandsons John Parsons, John Dorchester, James Dorchester, Benjamin Munn, John Munn, John Richards.

BIOGRAPHY: Younger brother of Cornet Joseph Parsons; was among the first settlers of Springfield; prominent citizen and a gentleman of exemplary moral character; of great worth and respectability. He was Deacon of the church and a chief instrument in its formation in Springfield as appears from his correspondence with the Rev. Dr. Increase Mather. In the civil affairs of the town, no one held more responsible offices, or discharged them with greater fidelity.

The Corte taking into consideration the desires of the Trayned Band of Springfield thought fit to confirm anti ratify the choyce of the Souldery There: And therefore Doe accordingly declare That Samuell Marshfeild is and shalbc the Clark of the Trayned Band at Springfield: And that Thomas Stebbins is and shall be their Eldest Serjeant: And Miles Morgan their Second Serjeant: And that Jonathan Burt is and shall be their first Corporall: Benjamin Parsons the Second Corporall: Rice Bedortha the third Corporall: And John Dumbleton the fourth Corporall.

CHILDREN of Benjamin Parsons and Sarah Vore:

1. Sarah, b 1656; m James Dorchester
2. Benjamin, b 1658; m Sarah Keep
3. Mary, b 1660; d 1662
4. Abigail, b 1662; m John Munn & John Richards
5. Samuel, b 1666; m Hannah Hitchcock
6. Ebenezer, b 1668; m Margaret Marshfield
7. Mary, b 1670; m Thomas Richards
8. Hezekiah, b 1675; m Hannah Cooley
9. Joseph, b 1675; m Abigail Phelps

John Lamb

MARRIAGE: 1st. Joanna, who came with him to Springfield. She d. 8 Sep 1683; he md 2nd Lydia Wright Bliss, dau of Samuel; widow of John Norton—who died 24 Aug 1687. After John Lamb's death in 1690, Lydia m. Quartermaster George Colton.

DEATH: 28 Sep 1690 at Springfield.

BIOGRAPHY: John Lamb and his wife settled in Springfield as early as 1651. John Lamb witnessed the sale of land by **Widdow Elizabeth Harman** to her son-in-law Charles Ferry on 12 Mar 1662. The other witness was John Lombard.

In court on Sept: 14 th 1660, "John Lamb complaynes against Thomas Mirack for non performance of a bargayne of ploughing for him the said John Lamb being bound thereto by Bill under penalty of 2s per day for every day the land should be unploughed after the tyme prefixt in the Bond: John Lamb pleaded for the forfeiture mentioned in the said Bill or bond for that the Land was not ploughed till 11 dayes after the tyme limitted in the Bill. The case beinge considered The Commissioners apprehendinge the lateness in the yeere that the land was ploughed and that the penalty mentioned in the bond was not unreasonable they adjudged that Thomas Mirack should pay John Lamb 20s for damage and 3s 4d for entry of the action"

Also: John Bag testifies against Martha the wife of John Henryson that he had seene her Play at Cards: which she owned: Whereuppon John Lamb and his wife Joanna both them gave in this Testimony upon oath That at a tyme (since they had herd these reports were about Towne) they asked Goodwife Henryson concerning her Playing at Cards: and shee denyed it: and said moreover in theire hearing that shee never saw any Cards but once at a Pinnace and shee knew not what belonged to them and also shee said that shee brought up noe Cards to this Towne all which by her former confession and other profe appears to be a most grossly: for it appeared That Card playing had been commonly used at John Henrysons house by his owne Confession.

Aug. 23. 1686. Thomas Lamb: John Lamb, and James Lewis appearing to answer for their disquieting The Towne by shooting of Guns Last Thursday in the evening Just within Night. They owning the thing and acknowledging their folly and being sorry for it and promising to be more carefull and for future to avoid all such foolery I Pass it by (except etc.) for the present.

CHILDREN of John Lamb and Joanna:

1. John b. 20 Dec 1653; d. 13 May 1654
2. John b. 15 May 1655; d. 5 Jun 1676
3. Thomas b. 15 May 1655
4. Joanna b. 20 Sep 1657; m. Samuel Stebbins
5. Sarah b. 15 Jun 1660; m. Jonathan Bush
6. Samuel b. 28 Sep 1663; m. Rebecca Bird
7. Daniel b. 24 Nov 1666; m. Elizabeth Atchinson
8. Mary b. 19 Jul 1669; d. 6 Sep 1669
9. Abigail b. 20 Sep 1670
10. Joshua b. 3 Oct 1674

Thomas Day:

MARRIAGE: 27 Aug 1659. Sarah Cooper, daughter of Thomas.

DEATH: 27 Dec. 1711. Sarah d 21 Nov. 1726.

BIOGRAPHY : He was a witness in Lynn, MA in 1647. A laborer and artisan. A cobbler who purchased his leather from John Pynchon and performed cobbling for the Pynchon family on a regular basis. In May of 1666, he purchased 17 hides of sole leather. He rented for 18 years a five acre lot from Pynchon.

Thomas was taken to court as follows: Feb. 8 th 1675 Thomas Day being complained off by the Constable for refusing to goe out Scout with his horse saying that If he must goe he would goe on foote and being sent for, and the Constable affirming it he not denying but owning it, and Justifying himself in it saying he did enough to offer his person. There being plaine Contempt and the Publike Service and safety neglected in such a perilous day as this is, I fine him .5s to be forthwith Paid to enable the carying on such service as this is and in case of Neglect the Constable to Levy it forthwith in Corne or mony or that which will be equivalent

theretoe with all charges: This .5s was Employed accordingly.

Aug. 11. 1685. John Miller Plaintiff (by way of Replevy of a Mare of his which Thomas Day had Impounded) against Thomas Day for said Day not delivering his Mare Impounded when he the said Miller tendered pay unto said Day to his the said Millers damage .10s according to Bond and Summons.

Thomas Day says he demanded .5s of John Miller not so much for damage as for that his Mare being unruly was in the feud and according to Country Law it is due (the demand of 5s John Miller ownes) Thomas Day says the Mare was unfettered and as to Millers tendering him pay he knows not of any such thing John Miller says his Mare was Hopled with a pair of with fetters and she might goe in when the gate was open however being so hopled and fetter not lyable to Country Law and I tenderd him for Poundage 4 abushel of Indian Corn: good measure: Thomas Day says that he would have taken up with .5s according to Country Law though his damage was greater nere an acre of ots being spoild: and she was often in the feild, I find for the Defendant Thomas Day 3s 12d and it being by way of Replevy .5s for Miller to pay and also costs of Court .3s 6d and 12d for Thomas Days attendance.

CHILDREN of Thomas Day and Sarah Cooper:

1. Thomas, b. 1662; m Elizabeth Merrick
2. Sarah, b 1664; m John Burt
3. Mary, b 1666; m John Merrick
4. John, b 1668, d 1670
5. Samuel, b 1671; m Marah Dumbleton
6. John, b 1673; m Marah Smith & Widow Hannah Kent
7. Ebenezer, b 1675; d 1676
8. Ebenezer, b 1677; m Mercy Hitchcock
9. Jonathan, b 1680; m Mercy Burt
10. Abigail, b 1683, m Samuel Warriner & Thomas Miller

John Scott

BIRTH: Born in England

MARRIAGE: 20 th of 5 th mo. 1659. Sarah Bliss, daughter of Thomas and Margaret

DEATH: 2 Jan. 1689/90. Widow md Samuel Terry. Nov. 19, 1690.

BIOGRAPHY: Was fined for playing cards with Thomas Miller, Edward Foster, John Bagg and John Henryson & Henryson's wife. In another court case, March 4th 1664/65. Before Mr. Holyoke and John Pynchon.

John Scott meeting with the Indian Watsaw Luncksin demanded of him a debt which he owned him and the Indian acknowledged before me John Pynchon and Mr Elizur Holyoke That he owed John Scot which he had taken up of him at severall tymes to the vallue of eight fadam of wampum. July .3d 1685.

John Hanchet and James King Tithing men enter a Complaint against Mary the wife of Goodman Towsley for her wicked and horrid desperate words of a Develish nature and Notorious lying.

Refer to the Testymonys of John Scot: Thomas Hanchet and his wife: Thomas Taylor, David From and his wife about her lying.

CHILDREN of John Scott and Sarah Bliss:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Sarah, b1663; m Benjamin Leonard | 5. Ebenezer, b 1673 (infirm) |
| 2. John, b 1665 | 6. William, b 1676; m Sarah Foot |
| 3. Hannah, b 1668; m John Fowler | 7. Elizabeth, b 1683; m Jonathan Worthington |
| 4. Margaret, b 1670; m John Remington | |

Thomas Noble

MARRIAGE: 1660 Hannah Warriner , daughter of William & Joanna.

DEATH: d 20 Jan. 1704 in Westfield. His Widow married Medad Pomeroy.

BIOGRAPHY: Thomas Noble served on the inquest jury to determine the cause of the death of **John and Elizabeth Harmon's** little son, Ebenezer, who drowned in the brook in 1660. On April.7 th 1674, Thomas Noble: being presented as chosen Constable of Westfeild; was sworne to discharge the said office in Westfeild. Moved to Westfield.

CHILDREN of Thomas Noble and Hannah Warriner:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. John, b 1662, m Abigail Sackett & Mary Goodman. | 4. Matthew, m Hannah Dewey |
| 2. Hannah, b 1663, m John Goodman | 5. Mark, m Mary Marshall |
| 3. Thomas, b 1665, m Elizabeth Dewey | |

6. Elizabeth, b 1673, m Richard Church
7. Luke, b 1675, m Hannah Stebbins
8. James, b 1677, m Ruth ? & Katherine ?
9. Mary, b 1680, m Ephraim Colton
10. Rebecca, b 1683, m Samuel Loomis

Hugh Dudley

MARRIAGE: 1656. Mary Cooley or Copsey.

BIOGRAPHY: Hugh Dudley landed at Boston on 2 July 1650 and He was indentured to Henry Smith by his, (Henry's) father-in-law, William Pyncheon on 28 Jul 1650: Whereas Hugh Dudley of Barnett did covenant promise and grant to and with William Pyncheon of Springfield in New England merchant his Executors and assigns from the day of the date herof being the 29 April 1650 untill his first and next arrivall at Boston in New England and after for and duringe the tearme of five yeares: The said William with the Consent of the said Hugh Dudley hath assigned and set him over to Mr. Henry Smith of Springfield for the said tearme of .5. yeeres: and the said Mr. Henry Smith doth hereby promise to allow him three pounds and ten shillings per yeare to find him apparell and to endeavor at the end of his tyme to provide him a convenient allotment of land in wittnesse whereof the parties above named have set to their hands this 9 th day of September 1650. and his landinge at Boston was the 2d July 1650

June 3d 1660. Before Mr. John Pyncheon and Mr. Samuel Chapin Commissioners. Hugh Dudley complayninge against Thomas Mirack for not performinge Covenante in plowinge up ½ acre of new ground which should have been done in May last, at the said Hugh his demand as by the Covenante, presented appeares: the said Hugh pleadinge great damages and still expectinge the ploughinge of the ground: Thomas Mirack was adjudged to have damnified the said Hugh ten shillings which he is to pay him, and also to plow up the ½ acre of ground by the first of May next.

John Bagg.

BIRTH: Birth 1637

MARRIAGE: 1657 Hannah Burt, daughter of Henry & Eulalia.

DEATH: He d 5 Sep 1683, his wife d 1 Aug 1680.

BIOGRAPHY: 1659: William Deynes Plantiff contra John Bagg Defendant in three severall actions: 1 for affirming that William Deynes did convert a great deale of lead from the right owner: 2ly in an action of Theft for stealinge an axe from the mines: 3. for stealinge about 10 pounds of lead which was found in John Baggs Custody: These matters between William Deynes and John Bag was issued by arbitration: viz. that John Bagg should make publike acknowledge of his offences etc which accordingly he did and was admonished for his miscarriages:

1661: Upon the examination of Thomas Miller: John Scot: Edward Foster and John Bagg also John Henryson and his wife Concerning their Playing at that unlawfull game of Cards. John Bag testifies against Martha the wife of John Henryson that he had seene her Play at Cards: which shee owned: Whereuppon John Lamb and his wife Joanna both them gave in this Testymony upon oath That at a tyme (since they had herd these reports were about Towne) they asked Goodwife Henryson concerning her Playing at Cards: and shee denyed it: and said moreover in their hearing that shee never saw any Cards but once at a Pinnace and shee knew not what belonged to them and also shee said that shee brought up noe Cards to this Towne all which by her former confession and other profe appears to be a most grossly: for it appeared That Card playing had been commonly used at John Henrysons house by his owne Confession. Leased 20 acres of orchard from Pynchon; paid L21 for 10 contract years. In 1676, John Pynchon took 60 acres for debts of L44.2.0.

CHILDREN of John Bagg and Hannah Burt:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Hannah, b 1658, m. Nathaniel Sikes | 6. Jonathan, b, m Mary Weller |
| 2. Mercy, b 1660, m Ebenezer Jones | 7. Abigail, b 1675, m Benjamin Cooley |
| 3. Daniel, b 1663, d 7 Dec. 1663 | 8. James, b 1675, d 13 Sept. 1689 |
| 4. John, b 1665, m Mercy Thomas | 9. Sarah, b 1678, m Benoni Atchinson & Samuel Barnard |
| 5. Daniel, b 1668, m Hannah Phelps | 10. Abilene, b 1680, d unm 1750 |

John Henrison (Henryson; Hennyson)

MARRIAGE: (not married in Springfield) Martha Steel, dau of George)

DEATH: Haddam, Connecticut from here.

BIOGRAPHY: 1659: John Henryson complayning against Thomas Miller for detainng a cart from him which he sayth he had right unto and for abusing him by striking him on the face making his mouth bleed and using reproachfull speeches callinge him Scottish dogg: the case beeing examined, such strikinge and evill

speeches were proved against Thomas Miller. And withal there was proved against John Henryson that he threatned Thomas Miller in Saying that eyther he or Thomas Miller should dy before he should have the cart. Thomas Miller and John Henryson for their making disturbance by their quarrelling together; contending in hot words and fur in breakinge the peace; one of them strikinge and the other threatninge Slaughter, are each of them fyned 10s apeece to the Countrey: And Thomas Miller for abusinge John Henryson by reproachfull speaches and strikinge him whereby he drew blood is adjudged to pay John Henryson in way of satisfaction the summ of three shillings foure pence. Wee find they deserved to be bound to the peace, but in regard these things were acted some tyme Synce, and the spirits now somewhat reeconciled we noe not require that bond.

1661. Henry Burt Complaines against John Henryson for not paying of Three bushells of wheate according to promise for spinning and knitting of Stockens. To which John Henryson says that the debt which he owes Henry Burt is but 10s and this he ingaged .2 bushells of wheate towards it and noe more: and he hath paid Henry Burt in worke so that Henry Burt owes him 8x for worke: Henry Burt ownes his owing him 8s which says he John Henryson was to have a shurt cloth for and John owning it is adjudged to take the shurt cloth: and for the other 10s John Henryson is adjudged to pay Henry Burt Two bushells of wheate (7s) and Three shillings in a day and halfe worke:

1661/62: Upon the examenation of Thomas Miller: John Scot: Edward Foster and John Bagg also John Henryson and his wife Concerning their Playing at that unlawfull game of Cards. William Brookes testifing against them saith that one Night at John Henrysons house he saw Edward Foster: Thomas Miller: John Bag and John Scot all foure of them playing at Cards: and I staying in the house neere an houre they continued their play at Cards all the while: Edward Foster examend saith It is true I did then Play, but I am but a beginner to play at Cards and further saith, that those .3. before nominated viz John Scot: John Bag and Thomas Miller Played with him at John Henrysons howse that Night which William Brookes came thither: John Bag: Thomas Miller and John Scot being asked they doe all acknowledge it that they did then Play at Cards at John Henrysons house. John Henryson examened saith: it is true: they did Play at Cards at my howse but I did not so well know the Law against it and I was willing to have recreation for my wife to drive away melancholy. And further he acknowledges Playing at Cards severall tymes at his howse (though he named not the person) .3. or .4. severall tymes he owned, it maybe oftener: and said he was willing to any thing when his wife was Ill to make her merry. Martha the wife of John Henryson being examened concerning her having of Cards being they had said that they had the Cards of her: shee said shee had a Pack of Cards that shee brought up from Hartford with her and kept them by her and let them have those Cards her husband also owned that he had brought her up a Pack of Cards.

John Bag testifies against Martha the wife of John Henryson that he had seene her Play at Cards: which shee owned: Whereuppon John Lamb and his wife Joanna both them gave in this Testimony upon oath That at a tyme (since they had herd these reports were about Towne) they asked Goodwife Henryson concerning her Playing at Cards: and shee denyed it: and said moreover in their hearing that shee never saw any Cards but once at a Pinnace and shee knew not what belonged to them and also shee said that shee brought up noe Cards to this Towne all which by her former confession and other profe appears to be a most grossly: for it appeared That Card playing had been commonly used at John Henrysons house by his owne Confession. From the Premises this Sentence: Also John Henryson is adjudged to Pay Twenty shillings for that he hath Commonly suffered that unlawfull Game of Cards to be played in his howse. And Likewise Martha his wife is adjudged to Pay five shillings for her Playing at Cards And also Martha his wife is to pay Ten shillings for her ly:

CHILD of John Henryson and Martha Steel:

Elizabeth, b 27 Jan. 1662

Peter Swinck (Swing)

MARRIAGE: Mary (or Mariah)

DEATH: 17 Dec. 1699.

BIOGRAPHY: A colored servant of Capt. Pynchon (1661) And since, Last Sabbath in sermon tyme Joseph Warrinar and Peter Swinck Testifie on oath that in the forenoone last Sabbath in sermon tyme they saw Samuell Harmon thrust and tickle Jonathan Morgan and Pluckt him of his seat .3. tymes and squeased him and made him cry.

CHILDREN of Peter Swinck and Mary:

1. Abraham, b 1659; d 1660
2. Susannah, b d 1661; d 1662

Nathaniel Ely:

MARRIAGE: Martha.

DEATH: 25 Dec. 1675.. Widow Martha d 22 Oct. 1685.

BIOGRAPHY: NATHANIEL ELY & wife Martha came to Springfield about 1658 with two children. In 1661, he was assigned to take inventory of **John Harmon**'s estate. Nathaniel leased house and lands from Pynchon for 18 contract years; after his death in 1675, his wife continued to hold the lease until 1685. Ely was a surveyor, a carpenter, and a tavern keeper. He built the stairs for the prison house cellar; purchased wine and rum from Pynchon's general store for his tavern. On 11 Dec. 1664, Ely's outstanding debt to Pynchon stood at

L132.19.4. Served as a selectman for 6 terms.
 CHILDREN of Nathaniel Ely and Martha:
 1. Samuel, m Mary Day
 2. Ruth, m Jeremy Horton

Joseph Crowfoot:

MARRIAGE: 15 Apr. 1658 Mary Hilliard (may be the dau of John of Windsor, Conn.)
 DEATH: Joseph d at Northampton, Mass. 1678. Widow married John Matthews.
 BIOGRAPHY: Laborer--performed variety of manual labor for Pyncheon: scouring my ditch, reaping, mowing oats, setting up fence railing, etc. Gave Pyncheon 4 acres over the river by Black Pond as security for a L6.1.3 debt. Surrendered the land to Pynchon 7 Dec 1666. Then rented 3 of the acres back plus an additional 10 acres; also leased a yoke of oxen for a year.

CHILDREN of Joseph Crowfoot and Mary Hilliard:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Joseph, b 1660. | 6. Daniel, b 1669 |
| 2. Mary, b 1661 | 7. Matthew, b 1672, m Hannah Knowlton Jr. |
| 3. John, b 1663; m Sarah Kent | 8. David, b 1674 |
| 4. Samuel, b 1665, m Mary Warner | 9. Sarah, b 1677, d 1678 |
| 5. James, b 1667. | |

Widow Margaret Bliss:

BIRTH: She was born in 1595 in Gloucestershire, England, dau of John & Margaret Hulins
 MARRIAGE: Thomas Bliss about 1590 in Gloucestershire, England. He died about 1648/49 in Hartford, CT.
 BIOGRAPHY: She was a good-looking woman, with a square oblong face that betokened great capability and force of character. She had a broad open brow, fair hair, and blue eyes. After the death of her husband, which took place about the close of the year 1639, she managed the affairs of the family with great prudence and judgment. She and her eight children gathered their household goods and cattle together and made the journey through the forest from Hartford to Springfield in 1643. Her sons, Nathaniel and Samuel had been there previously and prepared a dwelling place for the family upon arrival. Margaret Bliss' land bordered George Langdon and Joseph Parsons. A daughter, Elizabeth, was the second wife of Miles Morgan. Another daughter, Mary, married Joseph Parsons. Had a son, Lawrence, who died leaving Samuel--who later was under the guardianship of Widow Bliss and her son, Nathaniel. Their family consisted of Nathaniel, who died in 1654, Lawrence who died in 1676, Samuel, who died in 1720, John who died in 1702, Mary who married Joseph Parsons, Sarah who married John Foot, Hester who married Edward Foster, and Elizabeth who married Miles Morgan. Another daughter, Hannah, died in 1661.

Widow Margaret Bliss' land was between George Langdon and Joseph Parsons---so only George Langdon's land was between her land and that of her son Nathaniel. In 1681, Nathaniel's mother, Widow Margarite Bliss, and Samuel Bliss Senior, were named guardians to Samuel Bliss, the son of Lawrence Bliss. The record appears confusing, I quote: "*Samuel Bliss the son of Lawrence Bliss being brought before me by his father in law John Norton (I think that means the father who married his mother--from other records I have run across) for disorderly going from him. It appearing that he was not settled with him and that at his coming to him from Goodman Dorchester's he was to be at liberty to go away when it should be judged meete and John Norton was insisting upon his continuance longer, the lad is left to the care and disposure of his guardians he being about 18 years of age; he hath made his choice and doth here publically declare his choice of his grandmother Widow Margarite Bliss and his uncle Samuel Bliss to be his guardians who appearing also and accepting thereof are accordingly allowed and declared the guardians of Samuel Bliss.*"

CHILDREN of Thomas Bliss and Margaret Hulins:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Thomas b. abt. 1618 Eng; d 1688 | 7. Samuel, b. 1642 |
| 2. Ann b. abt 1620, Eng; m Robert Chapman | 8. John b. 1635; m Patience Burt |
| 3. Nathaniel b. 1622; m. Catherine Chapin | 9. Sarah b. 1638, m. (1) John Scott, (2) Samuel Terry |
| 4. Mary, b. 1625; m. Joseph Parsons | 10. Hester b. 1640; m.. Edward Foster |
| 5. Lawrence b. 1628; m. Lydia Wright | 11. Elizabeth b 1640; m. Miles Morgan |
| 6. Hannah b. 1633; d. unmd 1660/1 | |

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